



August 11, 2025

Dear Fellow NTCA Members:

When I last wrote you in February, we were learning of budget reductions, requests for budget revisions, compliance with Presidential Executive Orders, and an overall feeling of uncertainty and worry.

From my perspective, that feeling of uncertainty and worry still exists. However, we now have something else to worry about. As many of you are aware, last Friday, July 8, 2025, there was a [shooting at the CDC campus in Atlanta](#). Public health has been under attack for quite some time, primarily in media outlets; however, this shooting highlights the growing physical and mental threats to public health workers.

Many of our CDC colleagues and friends were in these buildings that were attacked last week and witnessed bullets hitting the buildings involved. The workplace is supposed to be a safe space free from worry about our own personal safety. This attack on the CDC has made me question what comes next, and it proves exactly what extreme measures individuals will take to seek revenge or address a grievance.

Before last Friday, I used to walk into my building, sit at my desk, and start my day without ever thinking I might be in physical danger. This morning, I entered work with thoughts of 1) what security measures are in place in my building to keep staff safe; 2) where I would hide if there were a gunman inside; and 3) what the quickest way out of my building is. These are concerns that no one should have while at work.

During this attack, Officer David Rose of the DeKalb County Police Department was killed. He leaves behind a wife, two children, and another child on the way. He was a United States Marine Corps veteran who sacrificed his life to protect those who work tirelessly to defend the public from disease. A GoFundMe has been set up to support his family. If you wish to contribute, you may donate [here](#).

As we navigate the challenges of coping with these threats to public health, I encourage you to talk about how you feel and your concerns to someone, be it a friend, family member, colleague, or a counselor. If we live in fear without tackling it head-on, we let those who instill this fear in us win. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has several resources geared toward mental health. In addition, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has an Emotional Wellness Toolkit (<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/your-healthiest-self-wellness-toolkits/emotional-wellness-toolkit/emotional-wellness-toolkit-more-resources>) that I have found helpful.



Lastly, I want to thank each of you for your dedication to public health and your resilience in showing up every day to do the important work you do despite the fears and uncertainties we face daily. You are all public health heroes, and I am proud to be part of such a wonderful TB community.

Sincerely,

Jason Cummins | Current NTCA President