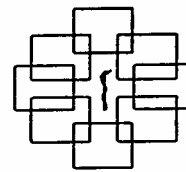


COALITION FOR HEALTH FUNDING



Marcia S. Mabee, MPH, PhD, Executive Director

January 11, 2007

Senator Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

Senator Robert Byrd
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate

Senator Thad Cochran
Ranking Minority Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Byrd and Senator Cochran:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for Health Funding respectfully urge you to provide a full \$7 billion in funding over the President's FY 2007 budget request for the programs under Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill when you consider the final, year-long continuing resolution. This modest amount simply constitutes a return to FY 2005 funding levels for these vital programs. It was supported by 73 Senators during the vote last March for the Specter-Harkin budget amendment. We hope you will continue to honor this commitment.

Public health programs under the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill are the nation's primary investment in biomedical, behavioral and health services research, disease prevention and health promotion, access to basic and targeted health care services for the medically underserved, and health professions and nursing education. In FY 2006, these programs lost more than \$1 billion in funding and over 5 percent in per capita spending. Prior to FY 2006, funding for many public health programs was flat and declining, including the National Institutes of Health, which has been a Congressional priority.

Every day, we see the evidence of the importance of making a stronger investment in these programs: the epidemic of obesity with attendant chronic disease is driving up unsustainable costs in mandatory spending; healthcare workforce shortages loom as baby boomers age; the number of medically uninsured continues to rise; many infectious diseases are increasing, not decreasing, and are becoming resistant to drugs designed to treat them; and millions of those with disabilities, including those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders, wait for treatment and services for longer periods of time.

Please reverse the serious erosion of funding for public health agencies and programs by providing \$7 billion over the President's budget request for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association
American Optometric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pharmacists Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Microbiology
American Society of Nephrology
American Thoracic Society
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Psychological Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition for Health Services Research
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Epilepsy Foundation
Infectious Diseases Society of America
March of Dimes
Mental Health America
NAADAC – The Association for Addiction Professionals
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Rural Health Association
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Therapeutic Communities of America
Trust for America's Health

www.aamc.org/advocacy/healthfunding

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