

October 29, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Leaders, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The 360 undersigned organizations representing patients and families, health care providers, public health professionals, educators, scientists, and employers thank you for your support of the U.S. Public Health Service and its agencies and programs, including the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Indian Health Service, among others. Given our nation's overwhelming health needs, we respectfully urge you to swiftly complete action on the FY 2011 appropriations bills. In so doing, we recommend you provide each of these important public health agencies with the highest of the funding increases proposed by either the House or Senate.

The U.S. Public Health Service's functions are essential for improving health and health care through greater access, higher quality, lower costs, improved safety, and faster cures. With sustained and stable investment, the public health continuum will keep America healthy and "bend the cost curve" by preventing costly chronic diseases, stemming the cause of disability, including behavioral and developmental disorders, identifying the most effective treatments, discovering new therapies and cures, developing a robust health workforce, and protecting our food and drug supply.

Still the public health continuum is continually asked to do more with less. Numerous studies from trusted sources such as Health Affairs, Trust for America's Health, and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, among others prove that our already fragile public health infrastructure lacks the capacity to support mounting health needs under the weight of an ongoing recession, an aging population, a health workforce shortage, and persistent declines in health status.

We are deeply troubled by recent efforts to cut non-security discretionary spending. Such shortsighted efforts disproportionately restrict funding for critical health programs and immeasurably harm those who rely on the federal government to provide basic and necessary services in these times of economic hardship. Furthermore, such efforts will not substantially reduce the deficit, nor dramatically reduce the national debt, as nondefense discretionary programs comprise only 20 percent of all federal spending.

The FY 2011 budget provides an opportunity to capitalize on previous investments in health agencies and programs and sustain efforts to improve health and reduce costs. Holding discretionary health spending at FY 2010 levels—or worse, cutting such funding to FY 2008 levels—would have a devastating effect on our nation. Such shortsighted action would further erode the capacity of our already fragile public health system, would perpetuate declines in overall health, would facilitate the rise of health care costs, and would ultimately undermine the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Indeed, the costs of these cuts far outweigh the perceived fiscal benefits.

The 360 undersigned organizations are sincerely grateful for your past support of the health agencies and programs and urge you to now support in FY 2011 the highest of the funding increases proposed by either the House or Senate. Only with increased investment in the public health continuum can we build capacity to transform our health system from one that reacts when people are sick to one that proactively keeps people healthy. That's the best way to truly bend the cost curve and reduce federal spending.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Radiology Research
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
AIDS Action
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc.
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS Services Foundation Orange County
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Integrative Health Care
Alstrom Syndrome International
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of HIV Medicine

American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Periodontology
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Health Education
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Rheumatology
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Counseling Association
American Dance Therapy Association
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association
American Dietetic Association
American Epilepsy Society
American Federation for Medical Research
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/SPAN USA
American Gastroenterological Association

American Heart Association
American Hospital Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Neurological Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Osteopathic Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Social Health Association
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Clinical Investigation
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neurorehabilitation
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Society of Transplantation
American Thoracic Society
American Urogynecologic Society
amfAR - The Foundation for AIDS Research
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical Research Training
Association for Patient-Oriented Research
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association for Psychological Science
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
Association of Population Centers
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Specialty Professors
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Autism Society
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition
Biophysical Society
Boston Public Health Commission
Boys Town National Research Hospital
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals
Campaign for Public Health
CARES Foundation, Inc.
CDC Coalition
Center for Oral Health
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Environmental Health Network
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Clinical Research Forum
Clinical Social Work Association
Coalition for Health Funding

Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Colon Cancer Alliance
Colorectal Cancer Coalition
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
CommonHealth ACTION
Community Servings, Inc.
Connecticut Certification Board
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Council on Social Work Education
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Dental Hygienists' Association of the State of New York
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Advocacy Network
Easter Seals
Emergency Nurses Association
Empire Project for Oral Health
Epilepsy Foundation
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Family Voices
FasterCures
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Friends of AHRQ
Friends of NCBDDD at CDC
Friends of NCHS
Friends of SAMHSA
Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Genetic Alliance
Health Professions Network
Healthcare Association of New York State
HealthHIV
Heart Rhythm Society
Hepatitis Foundation International
Hispanic Nurses Fund
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
HIV Medicine Association
Howard University Health Sciences

Immune Deficiency Foundation
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Jewish Women International
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Momentum
Lowe Syndrome Association
Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Maryland Dental Action Coalition
Meharry Medical College
Mental Health America
Michigan Oral Health Coalition
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals
Nashville CARES
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability
Disorders
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Association of Mental Health Planning & Advisory Councils
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of Pupil Services Administrators
National Association of Social Workers

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Blood Clot Alliance
National Business Coalition on Health
National Business Group on Health
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Empowerment Center
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Foundation for Mental Health
National Gaucher Foundation
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Kidney Foundation
National Latino Behavioral Health Association
National Latino Behavioral Health Association
National League for Nursing
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Organization for Women
National Organization of Nurse Practitioners
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Rural Health Association
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
National Violence Prevention Network
NBIA Disorders Association
Nevada Cancer Institute
New York Medical College

New York State Oral Health Coalition
New York State Public Health Association
New York Stem Cell Foundation
North American Primary Care Research Group
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
North County Children's Clinic
Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
NYU Langone Medical Center
Oncology Nursing Society
Oral Health America
OraSure Technologies, Inc.
Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon Public Health Institute
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network
Partnership for Prevention
Pediatric Stroke Network, Inc.
Penn Medicine
Penn State College of Medicine
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
Pew Children's Dental Campaign
Physician Assistant Education Association
PKD Foundation
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Association of America
Prevent Blindness America
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Project DOCC - Delivery of Chronic Care
Project Open Hand
Public Health - Seattle & King County
Public Health Institute
PXE International
REACH Healthcare Foundation
Research!America
RTI International
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
School Social Work Association of America
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Clinical and Translational Science

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society of Trauma Nurses
Special Olympics International
Spina Bifida Association
TASH
The AIDS Institute
The American Brain Coalition
The Arc of the United States
The Endocrine Society
The Joint Commission
The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
The NephCure Foundation
Therapeutic Communities of America
Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
United Cerebral Palsy
United Spinal Association
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Florida-USF Health
University of Washington
VHL Family Alliance
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of the USA

CC: Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittees on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related
Agencies