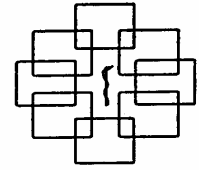


COALITION FOR HEALTH FUNDING



Marcia S. Mabee, MPH, PhD, Executive Director

November 7, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Conference on H.R. 3010, FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations

Dear Chairman Regula:

The undersigned member organizations of the Coalition for Health Funding urge you to provide the highest possible funding level for health programs during House-Senate conference deliberations on H.R. 3010. In many cases, but not all, the Senate's version of the bill provides higher funding for health programs. We urge you to select the higher number whenever possible. This is particularly important given the threat of across-the-board cuts.

This is not the time to further erode funding for public health agencies and programs. Many programs have been level funded for several years, others have been cut, or significantly underfunded compared with the opportunity to improve health or further understanding through research. The Coalition additionally urges you to reject elimination of health programs. Federal public health programs constitute an essential component of the nation's health safety net. They also constitute the nation's critical investment in prevention of chronic disease, infectious disease, and injury; biomedical and behavioral research; and training of a broad cadre of health and public health professionals already in short supply.

The United States is still coping with the aftermath of triple hurricane disasters that have wreaked unprecedented destruction of lives, homes, and communities. Public health agencies and programs have been, and continue to be, essential responders to these emergencies. The nation is also preparing for the possibility of a virulent pandemic flu that could kill hundreds of thousands of Americans, or more. Public health agencies and programs will be frontline responders in a pandemic crisis as well. But they cannot continue to serve the nation and rise to everyday as well as historic demands without robust support. We urge you to provide that support.

www.aamc.org/advocacy/healthfunding

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Sincerely,

AIDS Action
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Geriatric
Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of
Nursing
American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy
American Brain Coalition
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Rheumatology
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and
Biological Engineering
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Society
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Nephrology
American Thoracic Society
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric
Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions
Schools
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of University Centers on

Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric
and Neonatal Nurses
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and
Science
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
ESA, Inc.
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hepatitis Foundation International
International Foundation for Functional
Gastrointestinal Disorders
March of Dimes
Medical Library Association / Association
of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC- The Association for Addiction
Professionals
National AHEC Organization
National Association of Community Health
Centers
National Association of County and City
Health Officials
National Family Planning and Reproductive
Health Association
National Mental Health Association
National Sleep Foundation
NephCure Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Therapeutic Communities of America
Trust for America's Health