



## American Academy of Family Physicians

Letter Sent to Both the Senate/House Budget Committee Chairmen and Ranking Members

April 30, 2007

The Honorable John M. Spratt  
Chairman, Budget Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Spratt:

On behalf of the 93,800 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, I respectfully urge you to support the spending level for domestic discretionary programs in the House Budget Resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 99). The House-passed Budget Resolution provides a total of \$451 billion for domestic discretionary spending, which is \$6 billion above that provided in Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, the Senate Budget Resolution.

The AAFP is one of the largest national medical organizations, representing family physicians, family medicine residents, and medical students nationwide. Founded in 1947, our mission has been to preserve and promote the science and art of family medicine and to ensure high-quality, cost-effective health care for patients of all ages. We believe that federal spending policy can help to transform health care to achieve optimal health for everyone.

We recommend that, as an essential part of that policy, the House and Senate Conference on the Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2008 provide \$451 billion for domestic discretionary programs. With these resources, the appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education can restore funding for health professions training programs, increase our investment in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, continue support for the National Institutes of Health and adequately provide for rural health and other vital public health programs.

The national commitment to discretionary health programs has seriously eroded over the last three years with \$1 billion in real cuts. Please support the higher domestic discretionary spending level provided in the House Budget Resolution so that we can restore the commitment to our nation's public health.

Sincerely,

Larry S. Fields, MD, FAAFP  
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