

IT'S TIME TO MAKE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING **A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

February 1, 2006

Dear President Bush and Members of Congress:

The health of all Americans is at risk from an unprecedented range of threats, including: chronic diseases and disabilities, infectious and food borne illnesses, biological and chemical terrorism, mental disorders and substance abuse, catastrophic injuries, and a shortage of healthcare providers and trained public health workers. And yet, last year, Congress cut public health programs by over \$1 billion, many of which continue to struggle to respond to sharply increased demands in the wake of the greatest natural disaster to strike the United States: Hurricane Katrina.

Consequently, the undersigned organizations urge you to increase funding for public health through the Function 550/discretionary budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2007 by an amount reflecting application of appropriate inflation factors to the final FY 2006 funding level plus \$1 billion. The rationale for this request is two-fold: 1) to maintain purchasing power for health programs; and 2) to restore funding for programs cut in the FY 2006 appropriations process and accommodate program initiatives to protect and strengthen our nation's health. Without additional resources on this scale, our nation's public health system – the continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment and training programs – cannot respond adequately to the threats, challenges and opportunities facing the nation.

Our request does not include, but rather is over and above, the Administration's anticipated funding increase for pandemic flu preparedness in the FY 2007 budget request.

To respond to this letter, please contact Dr. Marcia Mabee, Executive Director, Coalition for Health Funding: mmabee@ix.netcom.com; Voice – 703-709-3001; FAX – 703-709-3003; 11479 Waterview, Suite 200; Reston, VA 20190.

Sincerely,

AARP
Academy of General Dentistry
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Advancement of Psychology
Advancement of Social Work Research
Advocate Health Care
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Action
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action in Mississippi
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles

AIDS Survival Project
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Childhood Cancer
Alliance for Children and Families
Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
Alliance of the American Dental Association
Alstrom Syndrome International
Alzheimer's Association
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
America Walks
America's Blood Centers
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

