

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

February 26, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The investment in disease prevention and health promotion for all Americans needs to grow, as our nation struggles with escalating health care costs, growing numbers of uninsured, and the prospect of declining health measured by overall morbidity and mortality. Over the past four years we have seen a decrease in that investment. The President's budget for FY 2008 continues to seriously underfund and undermine an important part of the solution: public health activities and programs.

While the final FY 2007 funding resolution provided needed increases to selected programs, most public health programs were held at FY 2006 funding levels. The undersigned organizations urge you to increase funding for public health through the Function 550/discretionary budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2008 by an amount that will restore funding cuts to public health programs enacted in FY 2006, and restore lost purchasing power. It is estimated that an additional \$4 billion, 7.8 percent, will be needed in FY 2008 to meet that goal and reverse the erosion of support for the continuum of biomedical, behavioral and health services research, community-based disease prevention and health promotion, basic and targeted services for the medically uninsured and those with disabilities, health professions education, and robust regulation of the nation's food and drug supply.

Our recommendation does not include, but rather is over and above, emergency funding requests.

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,

Academy of General Dentistry
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Affymetrix, Inc.
AIDS Action Committee
AIDS Action Council
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Project Los Angeles

