

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