

September 8, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

Our nation is struggling with escalating health care costs, growing numbers of uninsured, and the prospect of declining health measured by overall morbidity and mortality. The undersigned organizations sincerely appreciate that the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittees have worked hard to provide increased funding for health programs in their respective FY 2009 Appropriations measures. This has been especially difficult in the context of the President's budget which continues to seriously underfund and undermine an important part of the solution for today's health care challenges: public health activities and programs. The investment in disease prevention and health promotion programs for all Americans needs to increase not decrease.

While we understand that an extended Continuing Resolution may be offered in September, we urge you to take into consideration the Subcommittee approved funding levels as you draft the CR. We further urge that the highest funding level, for each public health agency and program within each bill, prevail in any final funding package.

Federal public health agencies and programs are this nation's investment in our most basic health infrastructure. Like our highways, tunnels, bridges, water and electrical lines, it must be maintained, rebuilt and upgraded in order to meet the significant challenges and opportunities for improved health outcomes for the American people. This requires increasing our investment rather than cutting or flat-funding programs which erodes purchasing power particularly in a time of escalating inflation and worsening economic conditions.

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 Radiology Research
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
AIDS Action Coalition
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
AIDS Action Council

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
America's Blood Centers
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
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 Immunologists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association

American Foundation for the Blind
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Osteopathic Association
American Pain Foundation
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association
American Trauma Society
American Urogynecologic Society
Americans for Medical Progress
Aplastic Anemia & MDS Foundation
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical Research Training
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Otolaryngology
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of Academic Health Science Libraries
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
AUTISM SPEAKS
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Biophysical Society
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Brain Injury Association of America
Brown University
Center for Communications, Health & the Environment
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Child Welfare League of America
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
Coalition to Protect Research
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum, US Group
Columbia University Medical Center
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research Education and Support (CARES) Foundation, Inc.
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children
Cooley's Anemia Foundation

COPD Foundation
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohns' and Colitis Foundation of America
Delta Society for Public Health Educators
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Easter Seals
Emergency Nurses Association
Epilepsy Foundation
Eta Sigma Gamma
Exponents
Families USA
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences
First Candle/SIDS Alliance
Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Friends of Cancer Research
Friends of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research
Friends of the National Center for Health Statistics
Friends of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development
General Mills Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition
Genetics Society of America
Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Public Health Educators
Harvard School of Public Health
Heart Links
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
Home Safety Council
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Illinois Society for Public Health Education
Indiana Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Health Racquet and Sportsclub Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Lighthouse International
Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Medical Group Management Association
Medical Library Association
Meharry Medical College

Melanoma Research Foundation
Mental Health America
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center, Colorado School of Public Health
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
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 Directors
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Mental Health Planning & Advisory Councils
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Disability Rights Network
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Foundation for Mental Health
National Foundation for Trauma Care
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Marfan Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Primate Research Centers

National Psoriasis Foundation
National Recreation and Park Association
National Rural Health Association
National Sleep Foundation
National Stroke Association
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
National Trauma Institute
National WIC Association
NC Chapter Society for Public Health Education, Inc.
Neurofibromatosis, Inc.
New York State Nutrition Council
North American Primary Care Research Group
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Oncology Nursing Society
Partnership for Prevention
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Prevent Blindness America
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Research!America
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
Scleroderma Foundation
Service Employees International Union
Shape Up America!
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Society for Investigative Dermatology
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society for Women's Health Research
Society Of State Directors of Health, Physical Education & Recreation
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
Spina Bifida Association
State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
Steps to Health King County
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA
Teratology Society
The American Brain Coalition

The American Society for Cell Biology
The Arc of the United States
The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
The Columbia University TeenScreen Program
The Endocrine Society
The National Tourette Syndrome Association
The Obesity Action Coalition
The Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
The Shock Society
Trust for America's Health
United Cerebral Palsy
United Fresh Produce Association
WalkBoston
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of the USA