

The CPH Update

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PENDING – IMMUNIZATION and GLOBAL HEALTH BRIEFINGS

The congressional “caucus” founded by Representatives **McGovern** (D-MA), **Granger** (R-TX) and **Roybal-Allard** (D-CA) to explore a wide range of public health topics will present its fifth briefing of the year on September 5 at 12:30 p.m. in room 121 of the Cannon House Office Building. This next briefing of the Congressional Study Group on Public Health will focus on the broad topic of **immunizations** – widely considered to be one of the greatest public health achievements ever developed. As of press time, those scheduled to speak at the briefing are **Dr. Melinda Wharton**, deputy director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the CDC, and **Dr. Adel Mahmoud**, professor at Princeton University and former president of Merck Vaccines. An additional speaker with a local perspective is also anticipated. As with other briefings, material from this event will be made available on the Campaign for Public Health’s Web site.

The sixth briefing - planned for Friday, September 21 - will be presented in partnership with the Congressional Global Health Caucus. The topic of **neglected tropical diseases** will be discussed. Several partner organizations have been contacted to assist these congressional member organizations with the task of finding speakers for the event. The CDC is also working with these groups to provide an expert in this area.

FLIER USED TO DELIVER CPH ADVERTISEMENT TO CAPITOL HILL

The Campaign for Public Health’s pro-CDC advertisement was sent to more than 800 Congressional mailstops in the House and Senate on July 16 – several days before the House vote on CDC funding. The ad, printed on 11”x17” glossy paper, was incorporated into a two-fold flier. The flier used graphics and a brief paragraph to detail the funding trends at the CDC, the work of the agency and the needs of public health programs. The partner ad was contained on the inside as a full page advertisement. A PDF of the flier is posted on the “News from Washington” page of our Web site.

All 73 organizations that joined CPH on the ad were sent a packet of 20 fliers. Several groups requested more copies so that the flier could be distributed to their board of directors or to an executive committee of their organization’s leaders. Among those who asked for additional pieces were the **American Medical Association**, the **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors** and the **National Association of People with AIDS**. Partner groups are encouraged to distribute the ad to legislators, particularly between now and the end of September. Finally, **Research!America** reworked the flier into a smaller format and will be distributing it to its entire membership as part of its September newsletter.

NEXT STEP FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS UNCLEAR

Facing a veto threat from the President for any bill that provides more funding for discretionary programs than the President had originally requested in February, Congress is looking for ways to move several key funding bills forward. This includes the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill, which funds the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As you may recall, the Bush Administration’s proposal cuts the core programs of the CDC by half a billion dollars below FY02 levels while both the House and Senate proposals provide the CDC with more funding.

During several Senate meetings over the August congressional recess, CPH staff heard repeatedly that a final plan for passing the LHHS bill is not yet known. While this key health funding bill has passed the House of Representatives, the Senate has yet to vote on the measure. Many believe that the Senate will pass an omnibus spending bill, rolling several key funding bills into one spending measure. Such a strategy might force the President to veto a bill that includes important presidential priorities – making a veto less appealing.

PFIZER PROVIDES CPH WITH SUPPORT IN 2007

Dr. Barbara DeBuono of Pfizer Inc, recently contacted the Campaign for Public Health with the good news that Pfizer would be supporting our efforts again in 2007. CPH would like to thank Dr. DeBuono and Pfizer. Dr. DeBuono is a key national voice to bolster public health programs and Pfizer was one of our earliest supporting organizations. CPH is extremely grateful for its strong and sustained leadership.

2006 AUDIT WRAPPING UP IN GOOD ORDER

CPH recently completed our 2006 audit with an outside accounting firm. While the final audit documents are still being prepared, draft copies indicate that the Campaign for Public Health remains fiscally prudent and financially sound. Our 2006 Annual Report will be out soon!

OVER 300 LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESS

The Campaign for Public Health’s fledgling grassroots advocacy initiative has generated more than 300 letters to Congress since its launch earlier this year. Still, we hope to generate far more local support for the CDC’s budget. Please visit FundCDC.org and click “Write Congress” to weigh in today. It is a quick and simple system that lets members of Congress know you care!