

The CPH Update

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CDC FACES BACK-TO-BACK CUTS

Last year, Congress cut the discretionary budget of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the first time in a quarter century. Soon thereafter, the Bush Administration sent Congress a budget request for fiscal year 2007 that proposes major cuts to the agency for the second year in a row. In the coming months, Congress will act on this proposal. CPH urges you to join us in fighting for the CDC and the important work of this agency.

CPH carefully analyzed the CDC portion of the President's request, interviewing members of the Administration and Congressional staff in the process. CPH was able to identify several one-time or "emergency" spending items that had been inappropriately tucked into the agency's program budgets. Once these items are excluded, it becomes clear the Administration's proposal drastically cuts the CDC – funding the CDC's core programs at \$279 million *below* FY06 levels. This is more than a 4.5 percent cut below last year's level. ***If Congress enacts the President's FY07 proposal this year, core programs at the CDC will be cut by more than 8 percent in just two years.***

Over the next several months, members of Congress will review budget proposals, hold hearings to discuss the merits of various programs and will "mark up" a final Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill based – at least in part – on the President's request.

A budget chart detailing the analysis of the CDC cuts is available at our website. The chart will be updated throughout the year as both the House and Senate act on the Appropriations bills that fund the CDC.

WRITE TO CONGRESS: Turn the CDC Cuts Around

These cuts must not go unchallenged. To this end, CPH has crafted an advocacy letter to members of Congress. The text of the letter is available on the "Write Congress" page of www.FundCDC.org. (Some of our partner organizations have added the letter to their grassroots web-advocacy systems – providing CDC supporters another easy way to send the letter.) Please take a moment to visit our site and send the letter to your elected officials today.

BUDGET PRESSURES TARGET HEALTH PROGRAMS

Budget pressures in Washington present members of Congress with very difficult choices. Members are not eager to enact \$15 billion in cuts to discretionary programs in an election year – as the President's budget calls for – but tax relief proposals, rising budget deficits, higher interest rates and military spending are putting serious pressure on Congress to limit federal spending.

CPH is working to educate members of Congress that cutting the CDC is shortsighted and works against efforts to reign in the long-term health crisis facing our nation. *Less than 0.4% of the entire federal health dollar is directed to the CDC's efforts to prevent illness and protect our health.* The vast majority of our federal commitment is directed towards treating illness and caring for those who are already ill. With baby boomers set to retire, cutting the agency that helps keep Americans healthy is a bankrupt policy.

As the year unfolds, CPH will provide our partner organizations with timely updates on these developments while working with our partners to educate Congress about the detrimental impact the President's proposal will have on our health and safety.

MORE ACTION ON "BIRD FLU" EXPECTED

The lethal H5N1 influenza strain spreading in bird populations around the globe received Congressional attention in the final hours of 2005. Congress appropriated \$3.8 billion in emergency spending to support federal pandemic influenza preparedness efforts. While this represented only half of the Administration's request and more action is expected in 2006, CPH was pleased that Congress addressed this potentially devastating human health threat.

During the final months of 2005, CPH worked with Congressional leaders to review legislative proposals related to influenza preparedness and lobbied for passage of these funds. CPH will continue to work to ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC in particular, are given the resources needed to help track the virus and inform and protect the American public from a global influenza pandemic.

CPH RALLIES FOR A UNIFIED MESSAGE

A major impediment to securing more funding for the CDC has been the lack of a clear, unified message shared by all groups who advocate on behalf of the agency. A related issue has been the lack of a clear consensus of what exactly constitutes the CDC's budget.

Recognizing these facts, CPH has made the creation of a unified message a major goal in the organization's first Strategic Plan. CPH has been working with our partner organizations to bring all parties together on a single message and anticipates even greater success in this area during 2006.

In addition to maintaining a detailed chart which clarifies the agency's budget, CPH is working with several partners to solidify our "ask" and message points for the CDC. All of the Campaign's materials are available to anyone wishing to advocate on the CDC's behalf.

SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIPS GROW

Recent contributions from the Campaign's Chairman, Evan Jones, as well as from Pfizer Inc and the Aetna Foundation helped CPH end 2005 in excellent fiscal condition. The Constella Group has recently pledged support for our work as well. While efforts to secure additional funding are necessary and continue, the Campaign for Public Health is enjoying unprecedented support.

In addition, CPH has reached out to new partner organizations over the last 6 months and welcomes several new organizations to our Advisory Council. These include the National Association of Local Boards of Health, the Chronic Disease Directors, GlaxoSmithKline and Prevent Blindness America.

CPH UPDATES STRATEGIC PLAN, WRITES ANNUAL REPORT

CPH is undergoing a mid-point assessment of the organization's *June 2005 Twelve Month Strategic Plan*. Our goals and mission remain constant, but changes to Congressional leadership, the severe nature of the President's budget and heightened concern regarding pandemic Influenza are driving CPH to update our strategies and tactics as we move into 2006.

Also, watch for our 2005 Annual Report this spring.

STAY INVOLVED and INFORMED!

The CPH homepage is frequently updated to highlight important developments related to our advocacy efforts. Our website also enables visitors to sign up for future email alerts and mailings.

Please take a moment to join CPH as we work to support the CDC. Contact the Executive Director, Karl Moeller, to learn how your organization might become involved. Email: KarlM@FundCDC.org

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The Campaign for Public Health is an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)(4) organization comprised of prominent leaders in the public health community dedicated to advocating for legislation that will accelerate the growth of federal appropriations for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Learn more at: www.FundCDC.org