

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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May XX, 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

This letter will be sent to House and Senate members of the Appropriations Committees in mid-May. To add your organization to the letter, contact Karl Moeller at the Campaign for Public Health by COB on May 16.

Email Karlm@FundCDC.org

Phone call (202) 898-9060

Dear Chairman Obey:

As the 110th Congress works through the task of appropriating limited federal funds across the many departments and agencies of the executive branch, the organizations listed below are deeply concerned that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is currently underfunded relative to its responsibilities to protect our nation from today's public health threats. We respectfully request that you support a significant increase in funding for the CDC's science-based public health programs in fiscal year 2009, with a goal of reaching a core program funding level of \$10 billion by 2015.

We congratulate the leadership of the Appropriations Committee in both the House and Senate for moving the CDC's budget in the right direction last year. The original FY 2008 Labor HHS conference report that was vetoed by President Bush in November 2007 provided the CDC with more than a 6 percent increase over the previous year—the largest one-year increase proposed for the agency in several years. We greatly appreciate your committee's recognition that major investments are needed to bring the CDC back in line with the health needs of the nation.

The CDC's complex budget includes the Vaccines for Children program, a mandatory spending program that has grown significantly in recent years. Important increases to the VFC budget line, coupled with needed investments in bioterrorism preparedness since 2001, have masked the damage done to the CDC's traditional "core" health protection programs. While the CDC's total budget has increased since fiscal year 2002, closer inspection reveals core programs have lost significant buying power over that same time frame. This is particularly evident after adjusting for inflation. The CDC's ability to fully deploy this nation's infectious disease, health promotion, environmental health, injury and disability prevention, occupational safety, global health and public health research efforts are being curtailed at the very time in our history when these issues should be given high priority.

Reforming our nation's health system continues to be the focus of debate on the campaign trail, in Washington and in the press. While a great deal of attention is given to providing care and treatment to those who are sick, many fail to address efforts to *prevent* illness, injury and disease at the outset. By supporting increased funding for the vital public health efforts of the CDC, we will have the tools to combat many alarming health trends. Perhaps the most chilling is the reality that our children's generation may be the first in our history with a shorter life expectancy than their parents. Population-based public health prevention strategies supported by CDC lie at

the core of our nation's response to this alarming reversal in what has been a decades long trend in improving American life expectancy.

Our organizations ask that investments in the CDC's core program areas total \$7.4 billion in FY09. This level of funding, and the goal of \$10 billion for core programs by 2015, would fall *below* the funding levels proposed by the CDC in recent professional judgment budgets. These budget documents were requested from the CDC by Congress and outline the funding levels the agency believes it needs in order to best protect the health of all Americans.

As the attached chart demonstrates, a goal of \$10 billion for the CDC's core programs by 2015 is a compromise. This funding level keeps the CDC from being eaten away by inflation but represents a less aggressive growth line than the CDC proposed in its professional judgment budget.

As you undertake the difficult task of addressing the needs of our nation, we urge you to provide the CDC with a significant increase in funding. The valuable health protection efforts provided by this agency may very well be the best and most underappreciated tools we have to combat both the old and new challenges that threaten the health of the public.

Sincerely, [76 signatories as of 5/5/05 at 2:10 pm. Letter "closes" at 5 pm on 5/16/08]

Campaign for Public Health
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
Amputee Coalition of America
Association for Prevention Teaching & Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC)
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Society of America
Brain Injury Association of America
Campaign for Public Health
Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Services Research, Friends of NCHS
Cooley's Anemia Foundation

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Easter Seals
Families USA Global Health Initiative
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
Home Safety Council
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Health Protection
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
Jefferson County Dept of Health
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center
Louisiana Public Health Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE)
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Business Coalition on Health
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Health Council
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Minority AIDS Council
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Quality Forum
National Safety Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Prevent Blindness America
Research to Prevention
Research!America
Safe Kids Worldwide
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
Society for Women's Health Research
Special Olympics International
SRA International
Strategic Health Policy International, Inc.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association
 Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA)
 The Food Trust
 Trust for America's Health
 Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
 YMCA of the USA

[organizations listed below in alpha order]

