

The CPH Update

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FY07 LHHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL MOVING FORWARD

House Appropriations Committee Provides CDC More Funding

On June 12 the House Appropriations Committee passed the FY07 Appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) – the appropriations bill that funds the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Committee bill provides CDC's core programs with \$6.15 billion, or \$65 million above last year's funding level, and \$343 million more than the President requested for this fiscal year. While CPH is cautiously optimistic that CDC funding is heading in the right direction, cuts were made to the Environmental Health and Injury Prevention, Occupational Safety and Health, Global Health, and Buildings & Facilities lines in the CDC budget.

Uncertainty Reigns over Pending Senate LHHS Bill

At press time, the Senate Appropriations Committee had not considered the Senate version of the LHHS funding bill. Still, it is noteworthy that an earlier Specter-Harkin amendment to the Senate budget resolution was adopted on June 16 – promising Appropriators \$7 billion in additional funding for health and education programs. While this funding may significantly boost health-related spending in the Senate LHHS bill, no similar provision exists in the House.

This major difference, and any others, will be worked out in a Conference Committee after both chambers pass their versions of the LHHS spending bill. Many believe the final bill will pass after the November elections. CPH will continue to lobby for the highest possible funding level for the CDC throughout the appropriations process. CPH's tracking chart of the CDC budget will be updated as legislation passes each chamber. The chart is available at www.FundCDC.org.

CONGRESSIONAL STAFF TO VISIT CDC

The Campaign is leading an effort with several partner organizations* to bring Congressional staff from the House of Representatives to Atlanta, Georgia, for a tour of the CDC this August. Key House staff members have received invitations. Our goal is to educate Congress on the wide scope of health protection activities that fall under the CDC's mission.

During their visit, Congressional staff will learn about the agency's vital public health programs from leading CDC scientists. The agency's top public health experts will provide up-to-date information on the many of the nation's public health threats. Congressional staff will tour the CDC's world class laboratories and facilities and become better informed about the complexities and challenges associated with scientific innovation and discovery.

* If your organization would like to support this effort, please contact Karl Moeller, CPH executive director. To date, supporting partners include: *American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Public Health Association, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, Research!America and the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research*

SUPPLEMENTAL BILL PASSED TARGETING PANDEMIC FLU

In early June, Congress passed an Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act that earmarked emergency funds for a variety of issues that have recently garnered national attention, including pandemic influenza. The bill provided \$2.3 billion for pandemic flu preparations and response, of which \$200 million was specifically designated for use by the CDC. According to the bill, the funds are intended to "expand and enhance ongoing activities related to global and domestic disease surveillance, laboratory capacity and research, laboratory diagnostics, risk communication, rapid response, and quarantine." These funds are in addition to the nearly \$3.8 billion in spending passed for pandemic influenza at the end of 2005. Lobbying efforts of CPH and our partners played a role in educating members of Congress about the importance of pandemic funding.

CPH remains involved in the debate over how best to prepare for a possible outbreak of pandemic flu. We will continue to keep you informed on this issue.

ADVOCACY MATERIALS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

CPH has assembled a working group of Advisory Council members to develop useful long-term CDC advocacy messages and supporting materials. Ogilvy Public Relations, one of the world's top 10 public relations firms, is assisting the group in reviewing messages and outlining strategies. CPH is working to make materials available this August for advocates to use in outreach to members of Congress when they are home for the summer work period.

NEARLY 500 ORGANIZATIONS SIGN LETTER TO APPROPRIATORS

On May 23 CPH sent a letter signed by 495 organizations to each member of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The letter highlighted Dr. Julie Gerberding's written response to the House LHHS Appropriations subcommittee. Earlier this year, Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) asked Dr. Gerberding to inform the subcommittee on what level of funding would be necessary, in her professional judgment, to meet the health challenges facing the CDC. In her response, Dr. Gerberding stated that the CDC would need \$850 million in additional funding to fulfill its public health responsibilities. The letter requested Appropriators carefully consider Dr. Gerberding's response while stressing the importance of the CDC. A PDF copy of the signed letter is posted on the "News from Washington" page of our Web site.

Special thanks to all of the organizations who joined us on this letter.

PROMINENT PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER JOINS CPH BOARD

Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, joined the Board of the Campaign for Public Health in April of this year. He will fill the role served by Dr. Roger Bulger, a founding board member of the Campaign. CPH is grateful to Dr. Bulger for his wisdom and guidance and looks forward to working with Dr. Benjamin, a nationally recognized advocate for public health.

NEW RECOGNITION, MEMBERS and WEBSITE

National Media Picks up on CPH Analysis of Bush Budget Proposal

Early in 2006, CPH's analysis of the Bush Administration's proposed FY07 federal budget request unveiled deep cuts to the CDC that had been obscured by emergency funding for pandemic influenza. This analysis was shared with Congress, the media and our advocacy partners through the publication of our first print mailing. The first edition of *The CPH Update* drew Congressional attention to CDC's budget – and generated reports in national media in the process. Stories ran in several major metropolitan papers citing deep cuts to the CDC. Many reports mentioned the work of CPH specifically, and several web blogs picked up on the story – including that of TIME Magazine's senior health reporter, Christine Gorman.

CPH Welcomes New Members to the Advisory Council

CPH welcomes two new Advisory Council members since our last publication, including the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research and the Association of Public Health Laboratories. We look forward to working with these new partner organizations in the future in our mutual efforts to promote the CDC's essential public health programs.

CPH Web site has a New Look

With major increases in traffic to the Web site, CPH improved and upgraded the Campaign's internet presence. The navigation and appearance of the site have been greatly improved to facilitate easier use. In addition, CPH doubled its mailing list in recent months. With these tools, the latest developments regarding CDC funding are made available nationwide to an ever-growing list of concerned partners and organizations.

WRITE TO CONGRESS: Turn the CDC Cuts Around

CPH is making progress because Congress is hearing how much the CDC matters to the public. Help us by writing to your representatives in the House and Senate. A sample letter can be found on the "Write Congress" page of www.FundCDC.org. Our site is also linked to a grassroots web-advocacy system – thanks to the generosity of Research!America – and provides CDC supporters an easy way to send the letter. Take a moment, send it today.

Stay Involved – Contact CPH and find out how your organization can support our efforts.

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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.

Learn more at: www.FundCDC.org