

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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May 19, 2008

The Honorable Dave Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As the 110th Congress works through the task of appropriating limited federal funds across the many departments and agencies of the executive branch, the more than 175 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,

Campaign for Public Health
Alliance for Healthy Homes
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association for Health Education
American Association for the Study of Liver
Diseases
American Association of Colleges of
Nursing
American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy
American Association of Occupational
Health Nurses, Inc.
American Autoimmune Related Diseases
Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network
American College Health Association
American College of Cardiology
American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Occupational and
Environmental Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and
Biological Engineering
American Lung Association
American Medical Informatics Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Nephrology
American Thrombosis and Hemostasis
Network (ATHN)
American Trauma Society
Amputee Coalition of America
Arizona Public Health Association

Arthritis Foundation
Association for Prevention Teaching &
Research
Association for Professionals in Infection
Control & Epidemiology (APIC)
Association for Research in Vision and
Ophthalmology
Association of Environmental Health
Academic Programs
Association of Maternal and Child Health
Programs (AMCHP)
Association of Minority Health Professions
Schools, Inc.
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State & Territorial Health
Officials (ASTHO)
Association of University Centers
on Disabilities
Autism Society of America
BlueCross BlueShield Association
Brain Injury Association of America
Breast Cancer Network of Strength
California Healthcare Institute (CHI)
California Hepatitis C Task Force
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Center for Indigenous Health Research
Center for Infectious Disease
Research & Policy
Center for Inquiry
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children and Adults with Attention-
Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders
Children's Environmental Health Network
CityMatCH
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Services Research,
Friends of NCHS
Coalition of Heritable Disorders
of Connective Tissue
Coalition of National Health
Education Organizations (CNHEO)
Commissioned Officers Association of the
U.S. Public Health service (COA)
Consumers Union
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
COPD Foundation
Council of Accredited MPH Programs

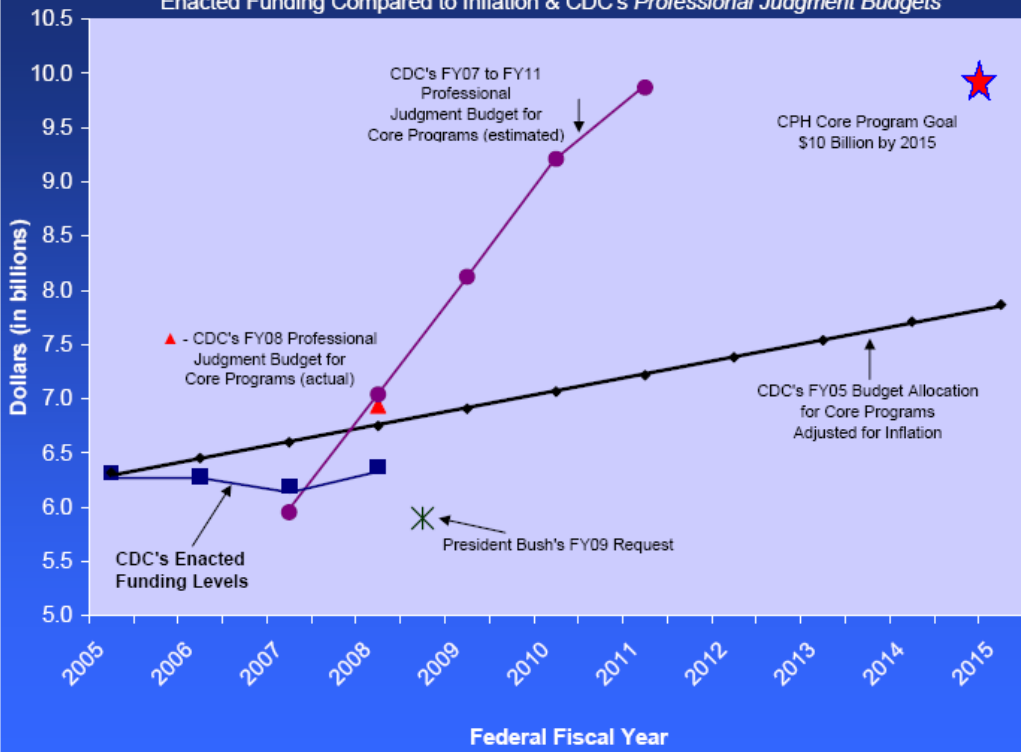
Council of State and Territorial
Epidemiologists
Easter Seals
Every Child By Two
Families USA Global Health Initiative
Foundation for American Health
Care Leadership
Genetic Alliance
Global Violence Prevention
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI)
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions
Schools
Home Safety Council
Immunization Action Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Health Protection
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
Jefferson County Department of Health,
Jefferson County, Alabama
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of
Public Health
Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center
Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Massachusetts Medical Advisory Committee
for the Elimination of Tuberculosis
Massachusetts Society for Medical
Research, Inc.
Midwest Nursing Research Society
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Eye and Vision
Research
National Alliance of State & Territorial
AIDS Directors
National Association for Public Health
Statistics and Information Systems
National Association for Regulatory
Administration
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 Chronic Disease
Directors
National Association of County & City
Health Officials
National Association of Hepatitis Task
Forces
National Association of Local Boards of
Health
National Association of State Boards of
Education
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Business Coalition on Health
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical
Science Chairs
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Environmental Health Association
National Environmental Health Sciences and
Protection Accreditation Council
National Fire Protection Association
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Marfan Foundation
National Minority AIDS Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Public Health Information
Coalition
National Quality Forum
National Recreation and Park Association
National Safety Council
National Sleep Foundation
New England Complex Systems Institute
NTMir
Pacific Health Research Institute
Partnership for Prevention
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Prevent Blindness America

Public Health Foundation
Public Health Project, San Diego University
- Research Foundation
PV Health Solutions
PXE International
Research Australia
Research to Prevention
Research!America
Safe Kids Worldwide
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
Society for Advancement of Violence and
Injury Research
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America (SHEA)
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of State Directors of Health,
Physical Education and Recreation
Special Olympics International
SRA International, Inc.
St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities
Stop It Now!
Strategic Health Policy International, Inc.
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA
(SPAN USA)
The AIDS Institute
The ALS Association
The Brain Tumor Awareness Organization
The Food Trust
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Trust for America's Health
UMDNJ - School of Public Health
United States - Mexico Border Health
Association
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Yale University School of Nursing
YMCA of the USA

Goal for the CDC's "Core Program" Budget Levels

Enacted Funding Compared to Inflation & CDC's Professional Judgment Budgets



Inflation calculations based on "Consumer Price Index Conversion Factors", produced by Robert Sahr of the Oregon State University.

CDC budget data includes terrorism and pandemic flu funding.

For more information, call (202) 898-9060 or visit www.FundCDC.org.

