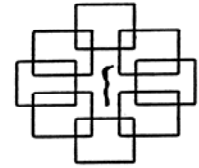


# COALITION FOR HEALTH FUNDING

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Marcia S. Mabee, MPH, PhD, Executive Director

January 11, 2007

Representative Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

Representative John Boehner  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Representative David Obey  
Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Minority Member, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Chairman Obey and Rep. Lewis:

The undersigned members of the Coalition for Health Funding respectfully urge you to provide a full \$7 billion in funding over the President's FY 2007 budget request for the programs under Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill when you consider the final, year-long continuing resolution. This modest amount simply constitutes a return to FY 2005 funding levels for these vital domestic programs. It was a goal pursued by the Democratic leadership in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, and promised by the Republican leadership to a number of its own members. We hope you will continue to honor this commitment.

Public health programs under the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill are the nation's primary investment in biomedical, behavioral and health services research, disease prevention and health promotion, access to basic and targeted health care services for the medically underserved, and health professions and nursing education. In FY 2006, these programs lost more than \$1 billion in funding and over 5 percent in per capita spending. Prior to FY 2006, funding for many public health programs was flat and declining, including the National Institutes of Health, which has been a Congressional priority.

Every day, we see the evidence of the importance of making a stronger investment in these programs: the epidemic of obesity with attendant chronic disease is driving up unsustainable costs in mandatory spending; healthcare workforce shortages loom as baby boomers age; the number of medically uninsured continues to rise; many infectious diseases are increasing, not decreasing, and

are becoming resistant to drugs designed to treat them; and millions of those with disabilities, including those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders, wait for treatment and services for longer periods of time.

Please reverse the serious erosion of funding for public health agencies and programs by providing \$7 billion over the President's budget request for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action  
Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Microbiology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Thoracic Society  
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Coalition for Health Services Research  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
March of Dimes  
Mental Health America  
NAADAC – The Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Rural Health Association  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Therapeutic Communities of America  
Trust for America's Health

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