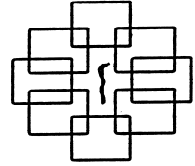


COALITION FOR HEALTH FUNDING



Marcia S. Mabee, MPH, PhD, Executive Director

August 8, 2009

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on
Appropriations
United States Senate

RE: FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill

Dear Senators:

The Coalition for Health Funding urges you to act swiftly in September to bring the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3293) to the Senate floor and urges you to pass the bill. At stake are hundreds of health programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services that millions of Americans depend on as well as biomedical, behavioral and health services research, and other activities, directed at preventing and mitigating disease and disability.

The Coalition for Health Funding is a 35 year old association of over 50 national health organizations. It is the oldest, most broadly based alliance of non-profit health associations focused on the budget and appropriations process for all discretionary health spending.

The importance of discretionary health programs and activities has never been more important as it is now with unemployment continuing to rise, the numbers of uninsured Americans increasing and the overall health of the U.S. population declining. Complicating this confluence of challenging factors is the expected return this fall of swine flu. Discretionary health programs are the only health safety net for millions who have lost their jobs, or their insurance and the first line of defense for everyone in protecting against H1N1 influenza. Do not delay in September: pass H.R. 3293 quickly.

Sincerely,

Julio C. Abreu

Cc: Senator Harkin

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