

## **IT'S TIME TO MAKE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING** **A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

February 19, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

Our nation struggles with escalating health care costs, growing numbers of uninsured, and the prospect of declining health measured by overall morbidity and mortality. The President's budget for FY 2009 continues to seriously underfund and undermine an important part of the solution: public health activities and programs. The investment in disease prevention and health promotion programs for all Americans needs to increase not decrease!

The undersigned organizations urge you to increase funding for all aspects of public health included in the Function 550/discretionary budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2009 by an amount that will: 1) restore funding to public health programs cut in FY 2006; 2) restore lost purchasing power that flat-funding for at least five years has eroded and 3) provide investments that begin to truly meet health challenges facing the nation.

It is estimated that an additional \$5.3 billion will be needed in FY 2009 to meet this goal.

These challenges include:

- **Biomedical and Behavioral Research:** Maintaining a vigorous portfolio of investigator-initiated basic research and pivotal translational and clinical studies to address the myriad health challenges that confront the American people and to develop a stable pool of talented new investigators whose ideas and fresh perspectives are vital to invigorating the research enterprise.
- **Disease Prevention and Health Promotion:** Improving community-based prevention and early intervention activities that address costly chronic diseases, infectious diseases, including those that are becoming increasingly drug-resistant, strengthening public health capacity and ensuring those with disabilities reach their highest potential in function and health.
- **Access to Safety Net Health Care Services:** Assuring access to basic and targeted health care services for the growing numbers of Americans who lack health insurance.
- **Health Professions Education:** Assuring that there is a well-trained, diverse health and public health workforce to serve as the foundation for the nation's health care system.
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse:** Assuring access to needed mental health and substance abuse services for hundreds of thousands who must wait months for care, including Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan; reducing the 15-20 year lag from bench to bedside of promising new treatments.
- **Health Services Research:** Building the evidence needed to ensure patients get the right care at the right time, every time; providing decision makers with information that will help control unsustainable costs.
- **Health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives:** Reversing current health disparities for this population that now suffers a life expectancy that is four years lower than the general population.
- **Food and Drug Safety:** Assuring the nation has a safe food supply and a safe and effective supply of drugs and medical devices.

Our recommendation does not include, but rather is over and above, emergency funding requests.

To respond to this letter, please contact Dr. Marcia Mabee, Executive Director, Coalition for Health Funding: [mmabee@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mmabee@ix.netcom.com); Voice – 703-709-3001; FAX – 703-709-3003; 11479 Waterview, Suite 200; Reston, VA 20190.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of General Dentistry  
Academy of Radiology Research  
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research  
Administrators of Internal Medicine  
Advocate Healthcare  
Advocates for EMS  
AHEC Program Office  
AIDS Action  
AIDS Action Committee of MA  
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS Project Worcester, Inc  
AIDS Services of Dallas  
AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Association  
Alzheimer's Association  
America's Blood Centers  
American Pain Foundation  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Health Behavior  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for Health Education  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
American Association of Anatomists  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine

American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators  
American Association of Nurse Executives  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College Health Association  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Medical Genetics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Dietetic Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Heart Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Kidney Fund  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Mental Health Counselors Association  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Otological, Rhinological and Laryngological Society  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Sociological Association  
American Telemedicine Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Medical Progress  
Amputee Coalition of America  
AO North America  
APS Foundation of America, Inc  
Area Health Education Center of Southwest Oregon  
Area Health Education Center Program Office, Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Associated Medical Schools of New York  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Research in Otolaryngology  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Air Medical Services  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Chiropractic Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations  
Association of Professors of Medicine  
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of Specialty Professors  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of University Programs in Health Administration  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation  
Autism Society of America  
Basal Cell Carcinoma Nevus Syndrome Life Support Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Berkshire Area Health Education Center  
Biophysical Society  
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)  
Boys Town National Research Hospital  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brown University  
California Statewide Area Health Education Program  
Cambridge Cares About AIDS  
Campaign for Medical Research  
Campaign for Public Health  
Campaign to End Obesity  
Canavan Foundation  
Cancer Research Fund-VHL Alliance  
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Central RI AHEC  
Champlain Valley (VT) AHEC  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
Charles Drew University  
Chattanooga CARES  
Child Welfare League of America  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Co-County Wellness Services  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Coalition for Health Services Research  
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research  
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations  
Coalition to Protect Research

College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research Education and Support Foundation, Inc.  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council of Accredited MPH Programs  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Council on Social Work Education  
Creighton University  
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation, Inc.  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware Public Health Association  
Detroit Medical Reserve Corps  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Easter Seals  
Eastern Montana Area Health Education Center  
Eastern Ohio Area Health Education Center  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Eta Sigma Gamma, The National Professional Health Education Honor Society  
Expression Analysis, Inc.  
Families USA  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Fenway Community Health Center  
Fletcher Allen Health Care  
Florida Rural Health Association  
FRAXA Research Foundation  
Friends of AHRQ  
Friends of Indian Health  
Friends of NCHS  
Friends of NICHD  
Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Garden AHEC  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Genetic Alliance  
Genetic Alliance BioBank  
Genetics Society of America

Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Health Care Council of Orange County California  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIVictorious, Inc.  
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
In Need Of Diagnosis, Inc.  
Indiana University  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research  
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association  
International Myeloma Foundation  
International Society of Nurses in Genetics  
International SPA Association  
International SPA Association Foundation  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Iowa Rural Health Association  
ISMRD-International Society for Mannosidosis and Related Diseases  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Johns Hopkins Institutions  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Lowcountry AHEC  
Lupus Research Institute  
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Mayo Clinic  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Library Association  
Meharry Medical College  
Mental Health America  
Missouri Public Health Association  
MN Rural Health Association  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
Multiple Hereditary Exostoses (MHE) Research Foundation  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
Nashville CARES  
Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Hauppauge, NY  
NASULGC, A Public University Association  
National AHEC Organization

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc.  
National Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
National Gaucher Foundation  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Health Council  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
National Marfan Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges

National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Primate Research Centers  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
National Sleep Foundation  
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
National Violence Prevention Network  
National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc  
Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center  
Neurofibromatosis, Inc.  
New Jersey AHEC  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
New York State Nutrition Council  
New York State Public Health Association  
New York University Medical Center  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program  
North Carolina Health Careers Access Program  
North Shore Health Project  
Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy  
Northern California Cancer Center  
Northern Sierra Rural Health Network, Nevada City CA  
NorthWest AHEC  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University Medical Center  
Oklahoma Area Health Education Center  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oral Health America  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Pacific Health Research Institute  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Patient Advocate  
Piney Woods Area Health Education Center  
Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force  
Plymouth AIDS Support Services  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Prevent Blindness America  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Professional Nursing Alliance  
Project Aware at SSTAR  
Public Health Association of Nebraska

Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
PXE International  
Research!America  
Research Institute for Independent Living  
RI AHEC Network  
Rural Health Association of TN  
Rush University Medical Center  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Save the Children  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Society For Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Gynecologic Oncologists  
Society for Investigative Dermatology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society For Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Society of Trauma Nurses  
South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium  
South Central Montana Area Health Education Center  
Southern California HIV Advocacy Coalition  
Southern Regional Area Health Education Center  
Southern Rhode Island Area Health Education Center  
South Shore Corrections to Community Reintegration Program  
Spina Bifida Association  
SSHARC  
Stony Brook University Medical Center  
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA  
SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse  
Tapestry Health  
Texas Public Health Association  
Texas Rural Health Association  
The AIDS Institute  
The American Brain Coalition  
The American College of Physicians  
The American Geriatrics Society  
The American Physiological Society  
The American Society for Cell Biology  
The Cooper Institute

The Endocrine Society  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition  
The National Tourette Syndrome Association  
The Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative  
Tobacco Use Reduction Network of America  
Trimethylaminuria Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
United States Water Fitness Association  
University of Arkansas  
University of California  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
University of Maryland Medical Center  
University of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy Duluth  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health  
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Virginia Poverty Law Center  
Virginia Rural Health Association  
Virginia Rural Health Resource Center  
Western Colorado Area Health Education Center  
Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center  
Wisconsin Association for Biomedical Research & Education  
Wisconsin Public Health Association  
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society  
Young People's Healthy Heart Program