



**Current Sign On Letter: Function  
550/Health Discretionary**

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

February 14, 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 cuts to public health programs enacted 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,

American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)  
 1in9The Long Island Breast Cancer Action Coalition  
 AACP  
 ABE TOR KELTON  
 Academic Pediatric Association  
 Academy of General Dentistry  
 Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research  
 Administrators of Internal Medicine  
 Advocate Healthcare  
 AHEC Program Office  
 AIDS Action  
 AIDS Project Los Angeles  
 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 Family Physicians  
 American Academy of Health Behavior  
 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 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 Podiatric Medicine  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress 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 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
American College Health Association  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)  
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 Mental Health Counselors Association  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Otolological, 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 of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Sociological Association  
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, Department of Community  
and Family Medicine, Saint Louis University School of Medicine  
Arizona Public Health Association - AzPHA  
Arthritis Foundation  
ASPH  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
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 Air Medical Services  
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI)  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
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  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
behalf of GA  
Berkshire Area Health Education Center  
Biophysical Society  
Boys Town National Research Hospital  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brown University  
Campaign for Medical Research  
Campaign to End Obesity  
Canavan Foundation  
Cancer Research Fund - VHL Alliance  
Case Western Reserve University

Case Western Reserve University  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Champlain Valley (VT) AHEC  
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Chattanooga CARES  
Child Welfare League of America  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Coalition for Health Services 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 to Protect Research  
College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service (COA)  
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition  
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research Education and Support  
Foundation, Inc.  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Consultant  
Council of Accredited MPH Programs  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Council on Social Work Education  
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation, Inc.  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware Public Health Association  
Detroit Medical Reserve Corps  
Easter Seals  
Eastern Montana Area Health Education Center  
Eastern Ohio Area Health Education Center  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Expression Analysis, Inc.  
Families USA  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Fletcher Allen Health Care  
Florida Rural Health Association  
Friends of AHRQ  
friends of Indian Health  
Friends of NCHS  
Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Garden AHEC  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Genetic Alliance  
Genetic Alliance BioBank  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Health Care Council of Orange County California  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Indiana University  
individual  
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research

International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association  
International Society of Nurses in Genetics  
International SPA Association  
International SPA Association Foundation  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Iowa Rural Health Association  
Johns Hopkins Institutions  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
Lifelong AIDS Alliance  
Lowcountry AHEC  
Lupus Research Institute  
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Mental Health America  
Missouri Public Health Association  
MN Rural Health Association  
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 Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE)  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
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 Social Workers  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs  
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners (NCGNP)  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)  
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 Health Council  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs)

National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Sleep Foundation  
National Violence Prevention Network  
National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc  
Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center  
Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center  
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 Primary Care Research Group  
North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program  
Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy  
Northern Sierra Rural Health Network, Nevada City CA  
NorthWest AHEC  
Oklahoma Area Health Education Center  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oral Health America  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Patient Advocate  
Piney Woods Area Health Education Center  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Prevent Blindness America  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Professional Nursing Alliance  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
PXE International  
Research!America  
RI AHEC Network  
Rush University Medical Center  
Save the Children  
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 Hospital Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family 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 Regional Health Education Center  
Spina Bifida Association  
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 national Tourette Syndrome Association  
Trimethylaminuria Foundation  
Trust for America's Health  
United States Water Fitness Association  
university of California  
University of Illinois  
University of Maryland Medical Center  
UNiversity of Minnesota College of Pharmacy Duluth  
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, PA  
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

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