

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

March 25, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

Federal public health agencies and programs have never been more important as the nation struggles to overcome the devastating effects of the deepening recession. In recognition of the role public health programs and agencies have in providing safety net services, lowering health care costs, and providing skilled jobs in healthcare technology and biomedical and behavioral research, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) made an impressive down payment in selected areas. The undersigned organizations deeply appreciate the actions of Congress and the Administration in this regard.

The FY 2010 budget provides an opportunity to address the ongoing needs and capacities of the entire public health service and ensure that growth in core agency missions is sustained and predictable as the recent Institute of Medicine report *HHS in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* recommends. Many core activities of most of the public health agencies have been cut, flat-funded, or received smaller than inflation increases over the past four years and longer. Estimated losses total \$6.8 billion, 13.5 percent, in purchasing power alone. If adequately supported, public health programs are in a position to help all Americans cope with worsening economic realities, while also providing a way forward to control health care costs by preventing disease, identifying the most effective treatments, discovering new therapies and cures, and protecting our food and drug supply.

The undersigned organizations believe that an increase of \$7.4 billion is needed in FY 2010 to accomplish the core missions and activities of the major federal public health agencies. These 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 rapidly growing numbers of Americans who lack health insurance as recession-related unemployment increases.
- **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,

Academy of Radiology Research  
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research  
AIDS Action  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
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 Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pain Foundation  
American Pediatric Society

American Physiological Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American School Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Statistical Association  
American Thoracic Society  
AO North America  
APIC-Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology  
Arkansas 5 A Day Coalition  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
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 Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses  
Autism Society of America  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Be Active New York State  
Biophysical Society  
Boys Town National Research Hospital  
Brain Injury Association of America  
California Center for Public Health Advocacy  
California Food Policy Advocates  
CDC Coalition  
CDC Coalition  
Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health, San Diego State University  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Child Welfare League of America  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Coalition for Health Funding

Coalition for Health Services Research  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research Education and Support (CARES) Foundation, Inc.  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Coulee Region Childhood Obesity Coalition  
Council of Accredited MPH Programs  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Easter Seals  
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Families USA  
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences  
Friends of AHRQ  
Friends of NCHS  
Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration  
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Langlade County Healthy Ways Coalition  
Lupus Research Institute  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Maryland Patient Advocacy Group  
Medical Library Association  
Meharry Medical College  
Mental Health America  
Michigan Fitness Foundation  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National AHEC Organization  
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 of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Caucus of Basic biomedical Science Chairs  
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Episcopal AIDS Coalition  
National Foundation for Trauma Care  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National Health Council  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National League for Nursing  
National Marfan Foundation  
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2)  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
National Primate Research Centers  
National Respite Coalition  
National Rural Health Association  
National Violence Prevention Network  
National Foundation for Mental Health  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oregon Health & Science University  
PATH  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Renal Physicians Association  
Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders (RID)  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Shape Up America!  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)  
Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine  
Society for Nutrition Education  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research in Child Development

Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Spina Bifida Association  
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA  
The AIDS Institute  
The American College of Surgeons  
The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
The Shock Society  
Trust for America's Health  
United Jewish Communities  
United Spinal Association  
University of Pittsburgh Office of Health Sciences Diversity  
UNM Health Sciences Center Office of Diversity  
Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
Young People's Healthy Heart Program at Mercy Hospital