IT’S TIME TO MAKE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING
A NATIONAL PRIORITY

February 1, 2006

Dear President Bush and Members of Congress:

The health of all Americans is at risk from an unprecedented range of threats, including: chronic diseases and disabilities, infectious and food borne illnesses, biological and chemical terrorism, mental disorders and substance abuse, catastrophic injuries, and a shortage of healthcare providers and trained public health workers. And yet, last year, Congress cut public health programs by over $1 billion, many of which continue to struggle to respond to sharply increased demands in the wake of the greatest natural disaster to strike the United States: Hurricane Katrina.

Consequently, the undersigned organizations urge you to increase funding for public health through the Function 550/discretionary budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2007 by an amount reflecting application of appropriate inflation factors to the final FY 2006 funding level plus $1 billion. The rationale for this request is two-fold: 1) to maintain purchasing power for health programs; and 2) to restore funding for programs cut in the FY 2006 appropriations process and accommodate program initiatives to protect and strengthen our nation’s health. Without additional resources on this scale, our nation’s public health system – the continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment and training programs – cannot respond adequately to the threats, challenges and opportunities facing the nation.

Our request does not include, but rather is over and above, the Administration’s anticipated funding increase for pandemic flu preparedness in the FY 2007 budget request.

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

Sincerely,

AARP
Academy of General Dentistry
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Advancement of Psychology
Advancement of Social Work Research
Advocate Health Care
African American Health Alliance
AIDS Action
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action in Mississippi
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles

AIDS Survival Project
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Childhood Cancer
Alliance for Children and Families
Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
Alliance of the American Dental Association
Alstrom Syndrome International
Alzheimer’s Association
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
America Walks
America’s Blood Centers
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American Association of Child’s Residential Centers
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Dental Consultants
American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
American Association of Orthodontists
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Association of Tissue Banks
American Association of University Professors
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Dentists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Sports Medicine
American College of Surgeons
American College of Veterinary Medicine
American College Health Association
American Counseling Association
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists’ Association
American Diabetes Association
American Dietetic Association
American Federation for Medical Research
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Heart Association
American Hospital Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Medical Informatics Association
American Medical Student Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychotherapy Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Sickle Cell Anemia Association
American Social Health Association
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists, Inc.
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Transplantation
American Sociological Association
American Stroke Association
American Student Dental Association
American Thoracic Society
Americans for Medical Progress
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
A.O. North America
Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation
APS Foundation of America, Inc.
Arthritis Foundation
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Clinical Research Training
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Subspecialty Professors
Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of University Programs in Health Administration
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
BCCNS Life Support Network
Bienestar
Biophysical Society
BJC HealthCare
Boston University School of Medicine
Boys Town National Research Hospital
Brain Injury Association of America
California Medical Association
Campaign for Public Health
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Care Alliance Health Center
CARES Foundation, Inc.
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center for the Advancement of Health
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Child Neurology Society
Children’s Dental Health Project
Christopher Reeve Foundation
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
Coalition to Protect Research
Columbia University Medical Center
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief
Community Health Councils, Inc.
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley’s Anemia Foundation
Cornell University
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Creighton University
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation
Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Developmental Disabilities Research Centers Association
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