

## Action Alert

### Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers

**Dear Juliane,**

We are writing to ask for your help to support NIH and NSF.

### Three Action Items

[Support NIH in the Senate](#)

[Invest in NSF](#)

[Support NIH in the House](#)

### **Support NIH in the Senate**

This week, the Senate will be debating Senate Concurrent Resolution 70, the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Resolution. The budget resolution is an important first step in the annual appropriations process, because it determines how much overall funding each appropriations subcommittee receives for agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

Senators Specter and Harkin will offer an amendment to the FY 2009 Budget Resolution to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$2.1 billion. The Budget Resolution approved by the Senate Budget Committee last week recommends NIH receive a \$950 million increase. The Specter-Harkin amendment would bring the total increase for NIH to \$3 billion.

Although passage of the amendment would be largely symbolic, it would send a very positive and important message to the Senate Appropriations Committee about the need to ensure NIH receives a much-needed increase in FY 2009.

For five consecutive years, funding for NIH has failed to