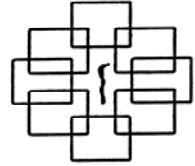


COALITION FOR HEALTH FUNDING



Marcia S. Mabee, MPH, PhD, Executive Director

April 26, 2007

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman, Budget Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Conrad:

The Coalition for Health Funding, whose membership includes 56 national health organizations representing over 40 million health care providers, researchers, patients and families, respectfully urges you to support the higher funding level for domestic discretionary programs in the House Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 99). A total of \$451 billion is provided in the House measure which is fully \$6 billion more than provided in the Senate Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 21).

Discretionary health programs have lost over a \$1 billion in direct cuts over the past three years and much more when inflation and population growth are considered. The decline in funding is seriously impacting an important part of our nation's health safety net for medically underserved populations, our investment in biomedical, behavioral and health services research, needed commitment to cost-saving preventive services and health promotion activities, our ability to provide a well-trained diverse health and public health workforce in sufficient numbers, and our ability to ensure a safe and effective food and drug supply.

A healthy population is critical to our overall strength as a nation competing in a global economy. Public health agencies and programs are essential to this fundamental goal, but they cannot fulfill their mission with seriously declining resources. Please support the House Budget Resolution's higher funding level for domestic discretionary agencies and programs as a first step in reversing the downward trend in available resources for discretionary health programs.

Sincerely,

Julio C. Abreu
President

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