

October 7, 2009

The Honorable David Obey, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Obey and Harkin and Ranking Members Tiahrt and Cochran:

The undersigned public health organizations write in strong support of the \$15 million included in the House FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help the public prepare for and adapt to the potential health effects of global climate change. This amount builds on the current \$7.5 million appropriation approved by Congress for FY 2009.

As members of the public health community who will ultimately deal with the negative health consequences associated with global climate change – from changes in vector borne diseases to impacts on drinking water supply to extreme weather events – we strongly support this increased investment. Currently CDC is using this funding to support state and local preparedness activities, expand research into the health effects of climate change, increase workforce development and training and educate the public about the health effects of climate change. The proposed increase in the House bill would allow CDC to expand its activities, including funding additional states and localities to conduct needs assessments and develop strategic plans to address weaknesses and bolster climate change capacity. This year CDC was unable to fund many states and localities that applied due to limited resources.

Thank you for your attention to our request. We urge you to support the House level of \$15 million for climate change activities at CDC in the final conference agreement for the FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Please contact Don Hoppert with the American Public Health Association at donald.hoppert@apha.org for additional information regarding this request.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Children's Environmental Health Network
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
Partnership for Prevention
Society for Public Health Education
Trust for America's Health