

May 29, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6024

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6024

Dear Chairman Obey and Representative Walsh:

The undersigned public health organizations write in strong support of a request made by Representative Edward Markey to the House Appropriations Committee to provide \$11.1 million 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 in the FY09 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill. 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 believe we must begin to develop proactive global climate change preparedness strategies now.

Specifically, we believe Congress can help CDC address this critical public health challenge by:

- Providing \$3 million to establish a “Climate Change” program within CDC to develop expertise among CDC staff in the areas of epidemiology, disaster preparedness, climatology, communications, infectious disease ecology and others.
- Providing \$5 million to fund up to six academic “Centers of Excellence” at universities -- up to \$1 million per center per year. Research would focus on forecasting and modeling; vector-borne diseases; climate change communication and behavioral change science; food and water-borne diseases; vulnerable populations; heat waves; healthy urban design and transportation to minimize the climate change impacts.
- Providing \$1.5 million to strengthen CDC’s Global Disease Detection Centers around the world to monitor new infectious disease trends related to changed climates by improving outbreak response, global surveillance, and research. This funding would also help to build capacity and improve quality of epidemiologic and laboratory science through developing a training program in this area.
- Providing \$1.5 million to disseminate technical information on the health effects of climate change and best approaches to preparedness based on results of internal and extramural research. Conduct outreach to health professionals, state and local health departments, science teachers, federal, state and local officials, community groups, faith-based groups, industry and the public through partner organizations, websites, publications, workshops and health campaigns.
- Providing \$100,000 to the Climate Change Science Program where CDC will represent HHS and contribute to scientific research for health issues related to climate change.

Thank you for your attention to our request. We urge you to support Representative Markey's request for climate change funding at the CDC. Please contact Don Hoppert with the American Public Health Association at donald.hoppert@apha.org for additional information regarding this request.

Sincerely,

American Public Health Association
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Families USA Global Health Initiative
Infectious Disease Society of America
National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
Society for Public Health Education
Trust for America's Health