

OCTOBER 29, 2007
ACTION ALERT

FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

THIS WEEK, Urge your members of Congress to support the Senate-passed increase of \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health in the Final Fiscal Year 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill. This bill also includes a substantial increase for the National Library of Medicine.

Funding Level for NIH in FY 2007	President's FY 2008 Budget Request for NIH	House-passed FY 2008 Funding Level for NIH	House-passed Funding Increase Over FY 2007	Senate-passed FY 2008 Funding Level for NIH	Senate-passed Funding Increase Over FY 2007
\$28.9 billion	\$28.62 billion	\$29.65 billion	\$750 million (+ 2.6%)	\$29.9 billion	\$1 billion (+3.5%)

On Tuesday, October 23rd the Senate passed its fiscal year (FY) 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)-Education Appropriations bill. This bill includes a substantial reinvestment in federal health and education programs, including a \$1 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In FY 2007, NIH was funded \$28.89 billion; the Senate-passed funding level of \$29.9 billion provides a much needed 3.5% funding increase.

Previous years of near level funding have created serious budgetary difficulties at NIH. The Senate-passed funding increase is a critical first step towards restoring the NIH's ability to attract talented researchers and stimulate innovative study into promising areas.

On July 19th the House of Representatives passed its FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The House-passed bill also increased federal support for NIH, but provided only \$750 million in new funding. While the leadership of the House should be commended for providing NIH with a 2.6% funding increase in their FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, the chronic underfunding of NIH means that present budgetary needs greatly outweigh the House allocation.

Given the different funding levels for NIH and other variations between the Senate-passed and House-passed bills, the members of the Senate and House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees will now begin to negotiate a final compromised FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. In order to ensure that the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill includes the higher Senate allocation of an extra \$1 billion for NIH you are urged to:

- 1) Contact your members of Congress and members of the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees and ask for them to support the higher Senate allocation of \$1 billion in additional funding for NIH and \$336.02 million for NLM in the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

- 2) Ask your Representative and Senators to contact their colleagues on the House/Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee and urge them to support the higher Senate allocation of \$1 billion in additional funding for NIH as they negotiate the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

To locate your members of Congress, go to www.congress.org and enter your zip code. You will notice that you have two Senators and one Representative. Additionally, the memberships of the Senate and House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees are listed below. The list of Subcommittee members is below.

When calling congressional offices, you should ask for the Health Legislative Assistant. It is important to remain persistent and follow-up, these offices receive numerous calls everyday and they may not respond to your initial call. If you contact them frequently, they will make it a priority to get back to you.

TALKING POINTS FOR CONTACTING A CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE:

- Introduce yourself and explain your interest in supporting the mission of NIH.
- Ask the Senator/Representative to join you in supporting the higher Senate-passed allocation of \$1 billion for NIH in the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.
- Ask the Senator/Representative to contact their colleagues on the Senate/House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee and urge them to support the higher Senate allocation of \$1 billion in additional funding for NIH as they negotiate the final FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.
- Thank the staff member for their time and ask them to thank the Senator/Representative for their continued leadership on health care issues.

WHEN SPEAKING TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT:

- You should always be honest; there is no need to exaggerate problems or results.
- You should make sure the conversation stays polite and respectful. Listen to what they have to say and engage in constructive dialogue, even if it's agreeing to disagree.
- You should never get frustrated and engage in an argument. Irreparable harm can be done by unnecessarily upsetting a legislator's staff member.
- You should always begin or end the conversation by thanking them for taking time out of their busy schedule to discuss these issues with you.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Senator	Phone #
Chairman , Tom Harkin (D-IA)	(202) 224-3254
Daniel Inouye (D-HI)	(202) 224-3934
Herb Kohl (D-WI)	(202) 224-5653
Patty Murray (D-WA)	(202) 224-2621
Mary Landrieu (D-LA)	(202) 224-5824
Richard Durbin (D-IL)	(202) 224-2152
Jack Reed (D-RI)	(202) 224-4642
Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)	(202) 224-3224
Ranking Member , Arlen Specter (R-PA)	(202) 224-4254
Thad Cochran (R-MS)	(202) 224-5054
Judd Gregg (R-NH)	(202) 224-3324
Larry Craig (R-ID)	(202) 224-2752
Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)	(202) 224-5922
Ted Stevens (R-AK)	(202) 224-3004
Richard Shelby (R-AL)	(202) 224-5744

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Congressman	Phone #
Chairman , David R. Obey (D-WI)	(202) 225-3365
Nita M. Lowey (D-NY)	(202) 225-6506
Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)	(202) 225-3661
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)	(202) 225-0773
Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI)	(202) 225-4911
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)	(202) 225-1766
Barbara Lee (D-CA)	(202) 225-2661
Tom Udall (D-NM)	(202) 225-6190
Michael Honda (D-CA)	(202) 225-2631
Betty McCollum (D-MN)	(202) 225-6631
Tim Ryan (D-OH)	(202) 225-5261
Ranking Member , James Walsh (R-NY)	(202) 225-3701
Ralph Regula (R-OH)	(202) 225-3876
John E. Peterson (R-PA)	(202) 225-5121
Dave Weldon (R-FL)	(202) 225-3671
Michael K. Simpson (R-ID)	(202) 225-5531
Dennis Rehberg (R-MT)	(202) 225-3211