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***** Attention Budget and Health Care Reporters *****

President, Congress Urged to Make Health Funding a Priority
More than 370 groups advocate for more discretionary spending for public health

WASHINGTON – January 29, 2004 – More than 370 diverse organizations and associations concerned with health issues released a letter to the President and Congress today urging them to invest more money in public health. Specifically, the groups are calling for a 12 percent increase in discretionary funding for “Function 550,” the budget account that finances federal agencies dedicated to disease prevention, medical research, health care delivery, food safety, and training the nation’s and public health workforce.

“The health of all Americans is at risk from an unprecedented range of threats,” the letter stated. “Our nation’s public health system will not be able to respond adequately to these threats without additional resources for the continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment, and training programs.”

Full text of the letter follows. A copy of the letter with signatories is also available online at www.cancer.org/takeaction or www.healthyamericans.org.

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IT'S TIME TO MAKE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING **A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

January 29, 2004

Dear President Bush and Members of Congress:

The health of all Americans is at risk from an unprecedented range of threats, including: chronic diseases and disabilities, infectious and food borne illnesses, biological and chemical terrorism, mental disorders and substance abuse, catastrophic injuries, and a shortage of healthcare providers and trained public health workers.

Our nation's public health system will not be able to respond adequately to these threats without additional resources for the continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment and training programs. We urge you to increase discretionary funding for public health through the Function 550 budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2005 by 12 percent. This investment is critical to improving the health, safety and security of our nation.

Sincerely,

AAHP-HIAA
Academic Health Centers
Clinical Research Forum
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Advocates for EMS
Advocates for Youth
Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation
AFSCME
AIDS Action
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The AIDS Institute
Alexander Graham Bell
Association for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Healthy Homes
Alliance for Lung Cancer
Advocacy Support and Education
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Health Education
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Blood Banks
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of Diabetes Educators
The American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Cancer Society
American Clinical Laboratory Association

American College Health Association
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Nuclear Physicians
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Counseling Association
American Dance Therapy Association
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Diabetes Association
American Dietetic Association
American Federation for Medical Research
American Foundation for AIDS Research
American Foundation for Urologic Disease
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association

American Hospital Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
American Medical Student Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Neurological Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Psychological Society
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)
American Society of Clinical Oncology

American Society of Hematology	Boys Town National Research Hospital	Digestive Disease National Coalition	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
American Society of Nephrology	Brain Injury Association of America	Directors of Health Promotion and Education	Lighthouse International
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology	The Breast Cancer Fund	Dystonia Medical Research Foundation	Lymphoma Research Foundation
American Society of Radiologic Technologists	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	Easter Seals	Maine Association of Substance Abuse Programs
American Stroke Association	California Association of Addiction Recovery Resources	Education Law Center-PA	March of Dimes
American Thoracic Society	California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.	Environmental Coalition of Mississippi	Medical Dermatology Society
American Tinnitus Association	Campaign for Medical Research	Environmental Defense	Mended Hearts, Inc.
American Urological Association	Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids	Epilepsy Foundation	Men's Health Network
Americans for Medical Progress	Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation	ESA, Inc.	MICAH's Mission-Ministry to Improve Childhood & Adolescence Health
America's Blood Centers	Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation	Eye Bank Association of America	Morehouse School of Medicine
The Arc of the United States	Catholic Charities of Jackson, MS	Eyes on the Prize	Mothers and Daughters
Arthritis Foundation	Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions	Families Against Cancer and Toxins	Protecting Children's Health (MADPCH)
Association of Academic Health Centers	Center for Science in the Public Interest	Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health	Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Inc.
Association of American Cancer Institutes	Center for the Advancement of Health	First Candle/Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Alliance	NAADAC – The Association for Addiction Professionals
Association of American Medical Colleges	Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science	FIST (Families in Search of Truth)	NARAL Pro-Choice America
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges	Child Policy Research Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital	FRAXA Research Foundation	NASPE-Heart Rhythm Society
Association of Black Cardiologists	Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)	Friends of Indian Health	National AHEC Organization
Association of Departments of Family Medicine	Children's Environmental Health Network	Friends of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development	National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
Association of Educators in the Radiologic Sciences	Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation	Friends of the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research	National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity
Association of Family Practice Residency Directors	Chronic Disease Directors	Friends of the National Library of Medicine	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Association of General Clinical Research Centers Program Directors	Citizens for a Clean Environment	The Gerontological Society of America	National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs	Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine	Global Health Council	National Alliance to End Homelessness
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs	Coalition for American Trauma Care	Goodwin Douglas Community Development Corporation	National Alopecia Areata Foundation
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools	Coalition for Blood Disease and Blood Safety Research	Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America	National Association for Biomedical Research
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations	Coalition for Health Funding	Health Professions Network	National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
Association of Professors of Medicine	Coalition for Health Services Research	Helen Keller National Center	National Association of Children's Hospitals
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine	Coalition of National Cancer Cooperative Groups	Hemophilia Federation of America	National Association of Community Health Centers
Association of Public Health Laboratories	Coalition of National Health Education Organizations	Hepatitis Foundation International	National Association of County and City Health Officials
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals	Colon Cancer Alliance	Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools, Inc.	National Association of Local Boards of Health
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry	Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service	HIV Medicine Association	National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions	Community Action to Fight Asthma	Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association	National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Association of Schools of Public Health	Community Against Pollution	Immune Deficiency Foundation	National Association of Social Workers
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Health Promotion and Health Education	Compliant	Infectious Diseases Society of America	National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials	Concerned Resident Initiative (CRI)	The Injury Coalition	National Association of State EMS Directors
Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors	Congress of Neurological Surgeons	Institute for Children's Environmental Health	National Association of State Universities & Land-Grant Colleges
Association of Subspecialty Professors	Connecticut Association of Substance Abuse Agencies	Intercultural Cancer Council	National Athletic Trainers' Association
Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine	Consortium of Social Science Associations	Caucus	National Black Caucus of State Legislators
Association of University Centers on Disabilities	Cooley's Anemia Foundation	International & American Associations for Dental Research	National Black Church Family Council
Association of University Programs in Health Administration	Coriell Institute for Medical Research	Inter-National Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation	National Black Nurses Association
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists	International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders	National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America	International Myeloma Foundation	National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
Autism Society of America	Delta Dental Plans Association	The International Pemphigus Foundation	National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research
Bazelon Center For Mental Health Law	Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance	Iowa Substance Abuse Program	National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases
	Developmental Disabilities Research Centers	Directors' Association	
		Jeffrey Modell Foundation	
		Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International	
		Kidney Cancer Association	
		Lance Armstrong Foundation	
		Last Acts Partnership	
		Legal Action Center	

The National Coalition of STD Directors
National Coalition on Deaf-Blindness
National Council on Family Relations
National Environmental Education & Training Foundation
National Family Caregivers Association
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Fragile X Foundation
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Indian Health Board
National Kidney Foundation
The National Marfan Foundation
National Mental Health Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Rare Disorders
The National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Respite Coalition
National Sleep Foundation
National Stroke Association
NephCure Foundation
Neuropathy Association

Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders Advocacy, Prevention and Treatment Services
NHLBI Constituency Group
North America Primary Care Research Group
North American Brain Tumor Coalition
Oncology Nursing Society
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
The Paget Foundation for Paget's Disease of Bone and Related Disorders
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network
Patient Databases
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Pennsylvania School Reform Network
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Prevent Blindness America
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Produce for Better Health Foundation
Protein Society
Public Health Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Research in Child Development
Research to Prevent Blindness
Research to Prevention
Research!America
RESOLVE, The National Infertility Association
Rosalynn Carter Institute for Human Development, Georgia
Southwestern State University
RTI International
S.T.O.P. - Safe Tables Our Priority
Sarcoidosis Awareness Network
The Sarcoma Foundation of America
Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition/Computer TakeBack Campaign
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Nuclear Medicine
Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Special Olympics, Inc.
Spina Bifida Association of America
State Associations of Addiction Services
Strategic Health Institute
Sturge-Weber Foundation
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
TeenScreen
Tennessee Environmental Council
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Thunderhead Alliance
Title II Community AIDS National Network
Trust for America's Health
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
United Cerebral Palsy
United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association
United Ostomy Association
United Spinal Association
Us Too International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
Wisconsin Association for Biomedical Research & Education
World Institute on Disability
YMCA of the USA
Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization