

FY 09 FEDERAL FUNDING ALERT

HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATORS ARE CRAFTING THE LABOR HHS SPENDING BILLS NOW; PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE TODAY AND ASK THEM TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION, TREATMENT, RECOVERY & RESEARCH PROGRAMS

MESSAGE:

Drug and alcohol addiction can be prevented and treated with strategies and services that are effective and save money; please increase funding for alcohol and drug programs in the House and Senate Labor HHS spending bills by supporting the field-recommended funding levels listed below.

ACTION:

Please call, fax or email your U.S. House Representatives and Senators, especially Members of the Appropriations Committees (lists attached), and ask them to support the funding levels for the alcohol and drug programs listed below. A sample model letter is attached, please feel free to insert information specific to your area. Find your Members of Congress at: www.house.gov and your U.S. Senators at: www.senate.gov or by calling the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

BACKGROUND:

The House and Senate have finalized the budget blueprint, and the House and Senate Appropriations Committee are now drafting their FY 2009 spending bills. The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark-up (review) its Labor HHS appropriations bill, which includes funding for drug and alcohol prevention, treatment, recovery and research programming, on Thursday, June 19th; the Senate Appropriations Committee will be marking up its Labor HHS spending bill during the week of the June 23rd. **Critical programs will not receive increased funding without your support.** Below are the field funding requests for drug and alcohol prevention, treatment, education and research programs:

| Program | President's FY 2009 Budget Request | Field Request for FY 2009 |
|---|---|--|
| Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant | \$1.779 billion (increase of \$20 million for the top 20 percent of recipients that show superior performance) | \$1.8587 billion (\$100 million increase) |
| Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) | \$337 million (decrease of \$63 million) | \$420 million (\$20.2 million increase) |
| Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) | \$158 million (decrease of \$36 million) | \$215 million (\$20.9 million increase) |
| Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) State Grants Program | \$100 million (decrease of \$194.8 million) | \$346.5 million (\$52.74 million increase) |
| National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) | \$436.68 million (increase of \$0.4 million) | \$465.5 million (\$29.2 million increase) |
| National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) | \$1.002 billion (increase of \$972,000) | \$1.0678 billion (\$67.6 million increase) |

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Gabrielle de la Gueronniere or Nisha Thakker at Legal Action Center, (202) 544-5478. Thanks for your help!

DATE

When addressing your Senators or Representative, use one of the formats indicated below:

The Honorable (Full Name)
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (Full Name)
The United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator _____:

Dear Representative _____:

Thank you for your continued support for alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, education and research programs. I am writing to ask your support for the funding levels listed below, which would provide increased funding for these critical programs through the FY 2009 appropriations process.

Prevention pays off and is a critical part of the continuum of care. The National Institute on Drug Abuse's 2006 Monitoring the Future Survey found that youth drug use continues to decline for many drugs, but that there are signs of increased use of sedatives, OxyContin and Vicodin. We must continue to invest in the best treatment and prevention options and provide services that are evidence-based. Adequate drug and alcohol prevention services, including those provided by the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities State Grants program, need to be available for all young people to reduce their risks of poor health, diminished academic performance, and involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The unmet need for alcohol and drug treatment services in America is overwhelming. According to SAMHSA, in 2005 22.2 million people, or 9.1 percent of the population, were classified with substance dependence or abuse in the past year. However, only 3.9 million of these individuals received some kind of treatment, leaving over 18 million people in need of treatment, or 82 percent, without essential addiction treatment services. Over forty percent of those who tried to get help for their addiction were denied treatment because of cost or insurance barriers. For many people, federal- and State-funded programs are the only means available to obtain treatment and prevention services. In many States, public spending accounts for more than 60% of the annual support for treatment and prevention services. The shortage of addiction treatment services results in waiting lists in many places, sometimes as long as six months.

Addiction treatment and prevention services are successful in cutting alcohol and drug use by nearly half, reducing crime by 80%, and deterring many youth from beginning to use alcohol and drugs in the first place. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, for every dollar (\$1) the United States Government spends on addiction treatment it saves \$7 to \$25 in other costs. Moreover, each \$1 invested in alcohol and drug prevention saves \$5.60.

The funding levels for which I am requesting your support include:

- **\$1.8587 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, the foundation of the publicly supported prevention and treatment system in this country.**
- **\$420 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)**
- **\$215 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)**
- **\$346.5 million for the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities State Grants program**
- **\$465.5 million for research at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)**
- **\$1.0678 billion for research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)**

Your support of this entire continuum of programs is essential because all fronts of the battle against alcohol and drug addiction must be sufficiently funded to be successful. Investment in alcohol and drug treatment, prevention, education, and research will save lives and resources nationwide, and it will help America protect its health in challenging times. Thank you for your support of these essential programs.

Sincerely,