

Sample Telephone Script for Call to Member of Congress on Public Health Funding:

Hello my name is _____ and I am a constituent and public health professional in your {State/Congressional District.} I am calling today to make {Senator/Representative} _____ aware that August is the American Public Health Association's Public Health ACTION Campaign month. During this campaign, the public health community is focusing our attention on increasing federal funds for vitally important public health programs

A priority issue is protecting existing public health funding and advocating for increased funding, especially in light of recent budget cuts. We need continued advocacy for critical public health activities including funding for CDC, HRSA and other vital community-based public health programs. I am calling to urge {Senator/Representative} _____'s support of increased funding for public health programs in the FY 2008 Labor HHS Education Appropriations Bill.

If the appropriations process shortchanges the funding available for these health programs, the net effect will be higher expenses associated with health care in the long term, and more in need of assistance. While there may be cost savings in the short term, there will certainly be long-term costs resulting from diseases that could be prevented, or bioterrorist attacks or infectious disease pandemics for which there is not adequate state and local capacity to respond. Prevention and research have been proven to be less costly than treatment.

I look forward to hearing {Senator/Representative} _____'s positions on these issues. If the American Public Health Association or I can provide you with more information on these topics please don't hesitate to contact me at

_____.

Don't forget to leave your name, address and telephone number.

