

September 11, 2006

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned health organizations urge you to reject budget process reform measures that weaken the legislative authority of Congress. Among these reforms are providing the President with line-item veto authority and creating independent, appointed Sunset Commissions to facilitate the reorganization, including abolishment, of federal programs and agencies.

In his FY 2007 budget, the President proposed elimination of 91 programs across the federal government, a number of them health discretionary programs that serve children, the disabled, those living in rural areas, provide preventive services to communities and train a broad array of health professionals. Through the regular budget and appropriations process, Congress has chosen to restore funding for many of these health programs. We are concerned about proposals that would allow the President up to one year to bundle targeted programs into one of four veto packages arranged by his choosing. We ask you to reconsider any proposals that create funding uncertainty and program disruption.

Congress already has access, beyond its own legislative authorities and process, to thorough program reviews provided by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Sunset Commissions would not only be duplicative and wasteful, but would seriously undermine Congressional legislative authority.

We urge you to reject these budget process proposals and keep Congressional authority strong. The health of the American people depends on it.

To respond to this letter, please contact Dr. Marcia Mabee, Executive Director, Coalition for Health Funding: [mmabee@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mmabee@ix.netcom.com); 703-709-3001.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Allegheny Singer Research Institute  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Association  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
Alzheimer's Association  
Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of HIV Medicine

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Brain Coalition  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Pain Foundation  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
Americans for Medical Progress  
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Chiropractic Colleges  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of University Programs in Health Administration  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Boys Town National Research Hospital  
CARES Foundation, Inc.  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Child Welfare League of America  
Christopher Reeve Foundation  
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIVictorious, Inc.  
Housing Works  
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center  
Legal Action Center  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
March of Dimes  
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Council  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Mental Health Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Rural Health Association  
Neuropathy Association  
Neuropathy Research Foundation  
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience

Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Spina Bifida Association  
Spina Bifida Foundation  
TeenScreen  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.  
Therapeutic Communities of America  
TII CANN - Title II Community AIDS National Network  
Trust for America's Health  
Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory University  
YMCA of the USA