

From: Amy Souders [asouders@cgagroup.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2006 4:01 PM
To: Amy Souders
Subject: URGENT ACTION NEEDED -- National Immunization Funding

Attachments: Immunization Dear Colleague.pdf; action alert -house dc page one.doc

The 317 Coalition

ACTION ALERT ON NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING

We need your help!

Background

Representatives Steny Hoyer(D-MD) and John Shimkus (R-IL) have sent a “Dear Colleague” letter to every member of the House of Representatives asking them to sign on to a letter to the Appropriations Committee to support increased funding for the National Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- known as “section 317” of the Public Health Service Act. (Copies of the letters are attached in a pdf file.) **The more Representatives that sign on to the letter, the better chance the 317 Program will receive increased funding in the FY 2007 budget.**

Action Needed

- 1) Call your Representative in the House and ask them to sign on to the attached letter by contacting Rep. Hoyer’s or Rep. Shimkus’ office.
- 2) Let them know why increased funding is necessary for your organization in their city or state. Sample talking points are below.
- 3) Be sure they know the **deadline is Thursday MAY 18.**
- 4) Feedback: If a Representative’s office indicates a willingness to sign the letter, let us know by emailing 317@cgagroup.com so that we can follow-up.

Contacting a Congressional Office

1. The US Capitol Switchboard at **202-224-3121** can connect you with your Representative. It is best to call the Washington Office, not the local district office. If you don't know who your Representative is, you can go online to www.house.gov and look it up by entering your zip code. You should not contact Representatives Hoyer, Shimkus, Regula or Obey about this letter, since they are the members sending and receiving the letter.
2. Ask to speak with the staff person who handles the Health and Human Services Appropriations for the office (specifically the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Purpose is to ask them to sign on to a Shimkus-Hoyer dear colleague letter on CDC immunization funding.
3. When you reach the staffer, very briefly identify your professional affiliation and work related to immuniza

Talking Points

- I am contacting you to ask that the Congressman/Congresswoman sign on to a House Dear Colleague that is currently being circulated by Representatives Shimkus and Hoyer.
- The letter is addressed to Chairman Regula and Ranking Democrat Obey on the Labor HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, and simply asks for "an increase" in funding for the CDC immunization program so that more underinsured children and adults can receive recommended vaccinations.
- The letter does not specify a dollar amount being sought, just an increase over last year. The President's budget request would cut the CDC immunization program in the appropriations bill by over \$100 million. Current program receives about \$519 million in federal appropriations.
- These funds are awarded to states as grants to purchase recommended childhood and adult vaccines, and provide support for the infrastructure needed to deliver the vaccinations.
- The program has been relatively level funded for the past several years, yet additional new vaccines have been recommended. The funding is not keeping pace with the need. Ten states now have to decide which vaccine NOT to offer to underinsured children through this program. These include Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia, along with the cities of New York City and San Antonio.
- [Add a sentence or two of local need for additional CDC immunization funding]
- Your office should have received the Dear Colleague letter from Representatives Shimkus and Hoyer. It was sent out Wednesday May 10. **The closing date for the Dear Colleague is Thursday May 18, 2007. I urge you to ask your boss to sign this important letter to the Appropriations Committee.**
- If you have questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Stephen Ham in Rep. Hoyer's office at 202-4131 or Mo Zilly in Rep. Shimkus' office at 202-225-5271.
- **I would be happy to fax or email a copy of the dear colleague letter if that would be helpful. (The letter is attached as a pdf to this email.)**

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