

317 Coalition – Legislative Update

March 15, 2007

Fiscal Year 2007

In February, Congress enacted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 appropriations bill that provides an additional \$32 million for the CDC 317 Immunization program – about an 8% increase above the 2006 funding level. This culminated the first year of the 317 Coalition’s advocacy efforts with a significant success when the vast majority of federal agency budgets were frozen.

We want to thank those of you who contacted Congressional offices in support of the 317 program, and those of you who simply by signing on to the 317 Coalition and our letters to Congress, demonstrated that a broad base of national, state and local organizations recognize the need for additional immunization resources through CDC. Congress heard the message and responded.

The 317 Coalition is sending a thank you letter to our Congressional champions who helped provide the \$32 million funding increase. These Members of Congress include the Chairmen and Ranking Republicans on the Labor HHS Appropriations Committee: Rep. Dave Obey (WI), Rep. Jim Walsh (NY), Sen. Tom Harkin (IA) and Sen. Arlen Specter (PA). Thanks also go to Rep. Ralph Regula (OH) who as the House Chairman of this subcommittee in the last Congress, included a \$100 million increase for the 317 program in the initial 2007 House appropriations bill. Other champions include Member of Congress who led the effort to send a group letter from Members of Congress to the Appropriations Committee: Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD), Rep. John Shimkus (IL), Sen. Gordon Smith (OR), Sen. Jack Reed (RI) and Sen. Dick Durbin (IL). Those letters included the signatures of close to 100 Members of Congress.

Fiscal Year 2008

On February 5th, the President sent his proposed FY 2008 budget request to Congress for FY 2008 which begins on October 1, 2007. The President requested \$508 million for the CDC immunization program, which is a net cut of \$12 million below the 2007 enacted level. This net cut reflects an increase of \$19.8 million requested to increase the demand for seasonal flu vaccine, offset by a cut of \$32 million in the 317 program. The \$32 million reduction essentially eliminates the increase that Congress provided in the current 2007 appropriation.

Congress is holding budget hearings through April, and we anticipate initial appropriations action may occur some time in June or July.

dollars in thousands	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Pres. Budget	FY 2008 317 Coalition	317 Coalition vs. 2007
317 Immunization Program	456,863	425,123	720,000	263,137
Vaccine Purchase Grants	TBD	232,158	TBD	*
State Operations/Infrastructure Grants	TBD	192,965	TBD	*
Program Operations	62,743	82,543	82,543	19,800
Vaccine Tracking	4,887	4,887	4,887	--
Prevention Activities	57,856	77,656	77,656	19,800
Vaccine Safety	17,386	17,386	17,386	--

All Other Prevention Activities	27,676	47,476	47,476	19,800
<i>Increase flu vaccine demand (non-add)</i>		19,800	19,800	19,800
National Immunization Survey (PHS transfers)	12,794	12,794	12,794	--
Subtotal, Immunization	519,606	507,666	802,543	282,937

* Split between purchase and operations TBD pending final 2007 allocation by CDC

TAKE ACTION!

The release of the President's proposed FY 2008 budget request begins our next round of advocacy for the 317 Coalition, and a new annual campaign. **Congress will be receiving input from their constituents before they draft the annual appropriations bills in late Spring, and they need to hear from YOU on behalf of the CDC immunization program.**

The 317 Coalition has maintained the same funding goal as last year – asking Congress to appropriate \$802 million for the CDC 317 immunization program in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill, an increase of \$295 million. We have again asked a few Members of Congress to lead a group letter to the Appropriations Committee. We are requesting that our member organizations of the 317 Coalition contact their Congressional delegation and ask them to sign on to these letters. In the House, the letter was circulated to all Representatives by Rep. Gene Green (TX) and John Shimkus (IL). In the Senate, the letter is again being circulated to all Senators by Jack Reed (RI) and Gordon Smith (OR). **This effort to get Members of Congress on this group letter to the Appropriations Committee is one of the main actions that we will ask you to take this year as a member of the 317 Coalition.** It is a very simple, yet very effective means to advocate for the CDC immunization issue. By simply calling your Congressional delegation and asking them to sign on to this “Dear Colleague” letter as it is referred to on Capitol Hill, you can have a tremendous impact in helping to increase the CDC immunization budget. Last year, 73 Members of the House of Representatives signed a similar letter, and Chairman Regula included a \$100 million increase.

Recruitment Drive

Although less than one year old, the 317 Coalition has already demonstrated success, which is due entirely to the grassroots support that you as a member contribute. **One of our goals for this year is to continue to grow our membership of national, state, and local organizations.** We now have over 130 organizations, and have state and local organizations in 35 states, and of course the national organizations reach all 50 states and territories. A full list of our members is on our website at www.317coalition.org

This Action Alert to ask Members of Congress to sign on to the letters to the Appropriations Committees is another opportunity to recruit new member organizations to the 317 coalition. Please feel free to refer organizations to our website. There is no cost to join. We simply need the name of the organization and a contact person. There are no requirements or obligations to membership. Organizations will not be included on letters or their name used without permission.

We look forward to working with you this year, and are hopeful that we will continue the momentum that the new Congress has started to increase 317 funding!