



NATIONAL COALITION FOR
HEART AND STROKE RESEARCH
INVEST IN HEART DISEASE & STROKE RESEARCH & PREVENTION

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May 18, 2011

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research urges you to include the following program funding levels in the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill to advance the fight against heart disease, stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease—the leading and most costly killer in the United States.

- \$37 million for CDC's WISEWOMAN; and
- \$35 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$3.514 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); and \$1.857 billion for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

An appropriation of \$37 million for CDC's WISEWOMAN will enhance Montana's chances of securing resources for this program. WISEWOMAN helps uninsured and under-insured low-income women ages 40 to 64 avoid heart disease and stroke by providing preventive health services, referrals to local health care providers, if necessary, and lifestyle counseling and interventions. Of the 70,000 women served by this initiative in only 20 states from July 2008 to June 2010, nearly 90% of them were found to have one or more heart disease and stroke risk factors and about 30% had at least three. More than 60% of these women participated in a minimum of one behavioral modification session.

Heart disease remains the No. 1 killer in our country. Stroke is the No. 3 killer. Yet, NIH still invests only 4% of its budget on heart research and a mere 1% on stroke research. Americans deserve better. An appropriation of \$35 billion for NIH, including \$3.514 billion for the NHLBI; and \$1.857 billion for the NINDS, will allow the NIH to build on the momentum to pursue promising research opportunities that could lead to a cure for these often debilitating and deadly diseases. In addition to discovering improved prevention and treatment efforts, NIH-supported research creates jobs and advances economic growth and innovation.

Investment in NIH and CDC saves lives and reduces health care costs over the long-term. Please capitalize on progress in understanding the causes of heart disease and stroke when research breakthroughs are on the horizon and proven prevention programs need to be implemented by including the aforementioned program funding levels in the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Neurology • American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation • American Association of Neurological Surgeons • American College of Cardiology • American College of Chest Physicians • American Heart Association • American Neurological Association • American Occupational Therapy Association • American Physical Therapy Association • American Stroke Association • American Vascular Association Foundation • Association of Black Cardiologists • Child Neurology Society • Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, Inc. • Congress of Neurological Surgeons • Heart Rhythm Society • Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association • Mended Hearts, Inc. • National Stroke Association • Pediatric Stroke Network, Inc. • SADS Foundation • Society for Vascular Surgery • Society of Interventional Radiology • WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease