



October 27, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-
Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-
HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-
HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Leaders, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned patient, consumer, provider, research, employer, and professional organizations representing the Friends of NCHS thank you for your support of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NCHS, as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, provides critical data on all aspects of our health care system through data cooperatives and surveys that serve as a gold standard for data collection around the world. We respectfully urge you to finalize the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill without further delay, and to provide the highest of the approved House and Senate funding levels for the agency's core data collection programs.

NCHS provides the data you and others need to improve and continuously evaluate health and health care. For example, the agency collects data on chronic disease prevalence, health care disparities, emergency room use, teen pregnancy, infant mortality, causes of death, the

adoption and use of HIT, and rates of insurance to name a few. These data are used by the Census Bureau in informing its population estimates and projections; by USDA in developing nutrition policies that undergird multibillion dollar federal food assistance programs; by state and local governments and public health officials; by federal policymakers; and by demographers, epidemiologists, health services researchers, and other scientists.

The health data collected by NCHS are an essential part of the nation's statistical and public health infrastructure, as demonstrated by the breadth of organizations participating in the Friends of NCHS. With your continuing support, recent investments in NCHS have helped the agency begin to rebuild after years of underfunding and restore the collection of essential health data. With your continued support, NCHS will modernize its data collection efforts to produce higher quality, more timely data.

The Friends of NCHS remains dedicated to ensuring the agency's continued vital role in monitoring our nation's health, and we look forward to working with you to further strengthen the agency. For more information on the Friends of NCHS, contact David Helms with the Coalition for Health Services Research at 202.292.6700 or e-mail at david.helms@academyhealth.org.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association for Respiratory Care

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Emergency Physicians

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Heart Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Public Health Association

American Society for Nutrition

American Statistical Association

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Association of Population Centers

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Coalition for Health Services Research

Coalition to Protect Research

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Japanese American Citizens League

March of Dimes Foundation

Marketing Research Association

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Business Group on Health

National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Osteoporosis Foundation

National Psoriasis Foundation

North American Primary Care Research Group

Population Association of America

Safe States Alliance

Society for Women's Health Research

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine