

CALL YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES DURING SPRING RECESS TO OPPOSE THE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION!

The U.S. House of Representatives adjourned on April 7th for a two-week Congressional recess without finalizing the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2007 (FY 07). This measure, H. Con. Res. 376, sets the overall funding allocations for all federal spending for the coming year, and the **House Resolution – as currently drafted – provides less spending authority for health and education programs than the Budget Resolution that was approved by the Senate on March 16th**. Last month, Senators successfully approved the Specter-Harkin amendment along with other amendments that added a total of \$16 billion in for health care and education spending in FY 07.

The House Republican leadership pulled H. Con. Res. 376 from the House floor after continued objections from both conservative and moderate Republican groups, in addition to opposition from House Appropriations Committee members. **The House is expected to vote on the Budget Resolution when Members return to Washington, D.C. on April 25th. The delayed vote on this measure provides an opportunity for the medical research community to reach out to its Representatives and urge opposition to the Resolution unless necessary funding is added for essential health and education programs!**

H. Con. Res. 376, as approved by House Budget Committee members in late March, would cap discretionary spending at \$873 billion in Fiscal Year 2007. This total spending level is consistent with the same overall funding level proposed by President Bush, and would require cuts to many non-defense programs for the coming year. The President's budget would cut funding for medical research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) by \$40 million and would fund 656 fewer research project grants through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Further, the President's budget also proposes deep reductions at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including nearly \$20 million from chronic disease programs, which include cancer control, prevention, and survivorship.

On March 30th, an amendment to the House Budget Resolution was offered by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) that sought to add \$7 billion in budget authority for health and education programs. The DeLauro amendment – which was similar Specter-Harkin amendment that was adopted in the Senate – was defeated along party lines, with all Budget Committee Republicans voting against the amendment and all Budget Committee Democrats voting for the measure.

ACTION ALERT: CONTACT YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE SPRING / EASTER RECESS (THROUGH APRIL 24TH)!

Please contact your U.S. Representative in Congress and ask him or her to oppose the FY 07 House Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) UNLESS a minimum of \$7 billion is added for health and education programs.

TALKING POINTS:

- 1) As Members of Congress are back in their home states through April 24th, go to www.house.gov to find the district office phone numbers for your U.S. Representative.
- 2) Identify yourself as a voting constituent who cares about cancer research, treatment and prevention programs. Tell the staff how cancer has touched you or your family.
- 3) Ask that the Representative **OPPOSE THE 2007 BUDGET RESOLUTION UNLESS A MINIMUM OF \$7 BILLION IS ADDED FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**
- 4) Note that this funding is necessary to keep cancer research moving forward so that early detection protocols, treatments and cures can be developed!
- 5) Make it clear that there is no excuse to justify voting against their constituents, the 1.5 million Americans who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, or the 10 million Americans living with cancer.
- 6) Let the staff know that you will be following the budget process closely, and ask the staff to keep you up to date on what actions the Representative will take in support of cancer research, treatment and prevention programs.

BACKGROUND ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION:

Members of Congress on the respective Appropriations Committees cannot adequately fund programs in FY 07 if they are not allocated the money necessary to administer these programs. As we saw last year, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees can only spend as much money as the overall Budget Resolution allocates. The Congressional Budget Resolution outlines spending caps for the year by "Functions." Health care (including medical research and public health programs) is included in "Function 550." The bottom line is simple: if the FY 07 Budget Resolution **CUTS** Function 550, the FY 07 Appropriations bills **MUST CUT** medical research and public health programs.

The Specter-Harkin and DeLauro amendments sought to restore funding for the health and education functions in the respective Senate and House Budget Resolutions to the levels provided just two years ago (Fiscal Year 2005). It is important that health and education advocates support the restoration of these critical funds this year, or the trend will only get worse as additional reductions are made with each passing year

If Members of Congress truly support cancer research and public health programs and are serious about their commitment to end suffering and death from cancer, they must support a Congressional Budget Resolution that increases Function 550 funding over last year's level. If they support a Budget Resolution that cuts Function 550, they support cutting cancer research, public health programs at CDC, and quality of life for all Americans who are living with cancer.

If you have any questions or comments about the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution, please contact Julie Pawelczyk, PanCAN's Federal Affairs Representative at jpawelczyk@pancan.org or at (202) 431-0599.