

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations and Related Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Gregg,

We respectfully request that you provide robust funding for Peace Corps in Fiscal Year 2010.

At a time when President Obama has made a pledge to double the number of Peace Corps volunteers by 2011, we would welcome your leadership in providing resources to lay the foundation for a bigger, better and bolder Peace Corps. Global attitudes about the United States remain fragile, and the Peace Corps remains one of the United States' most effective grassroots diplomacy and development programs.

The Peace Corps reports that as many as twenty nations are interested in starting Peace Corps programs where none currently exist, and there are real opportunities to expand and improve upon currently existing programs. We believe it is in our foreign policy and national security interest to pursue these opportunities and responsibly expand the global presence of the Peace Corps.

Robust funding will provide resources not just to grow the Peace Corps, but also help modernize and reform the Peace Corps as the United States reevaluates its foreign policy to confront new challenges we face.

Today, the nearly 8,000 volunteers serving in the Peace Corps are part of a proud and rich history of global service. These dedicated citizens represent the United States in over 70 countries across the globe. Over 195,000 U.S. citizens have answered the call to serve since the Peace Corps was created in 1961, and it is our hope that with robust funding, many more can serve in, and be served by, this vital program.

We appreciate the support you have provided in the past and look forward to your leadership in helping the President realize his goal for Peace Corps and service to our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward M Kennedy

Art Bond ✓

John F. Kerry

Bar Sanders

Robert W. Orris

James

Daniel K. Akutan

Amy Klobuchar

Jim Amli

Frank R. Lautenberg

Robert Menendez

Mark Foy

Bob Carey, Jr.

Carl Levin

Tom Kaptur

Blanche L. Lincoln

Sayby Chaulkin

Von Udoe

Barbara Byr

Chuck Schumer

Mark Udall

Harry Reid

Shirley

Ben Card

Paul Beah

Jay Fin

Shawna Brown

Barbara A. Nishubhi

Phil Martiny

Myf. Burt

Ju. Lill

Bill Nelson

Jay Rothpeller

Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
SD-131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
SD-125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander:

We would like to draw your attention to a very popular and successful conservation program that has strong support in Congress, within the conservation community, and among private landowners across the United States. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is a unique, public-private, partnership based program that leverages non-federal funds to protect, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife. NAWCA was unanimously reauthorized by Congress in September 2006, and this year, the President demonstrated support for NAWCA by suggesting a considerable increase in his budget. We greatly appreciate the Subcommittee's past support for NAWCA and hope you will continue funding for this extremely important program during Fiscal Year 2010 funding process.

NAWCA is one of the government's most cost-effective conservation programs. Federal dollars invested in NAWCA are matched by more than two dollars from non-federal partners including corporations, private landowners, non-profits, state governments, and local organizations. Regional Joint Ventures, established to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, play a substantial role by fostering collaborative efforts to successfully implement NAWCA.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of NAWCA, and over the last two decades, it has proven effective far beyond the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The public and a large number of wildlife species benefit tremendously from healthy wetland systems that are the result of on-the-ground conservation made possible by this program. Wetlands help prevent flooding, reduce the severity of storm surges, and mitigate the damaging effects of soil erosion. In addition, wetlands are important for groundwater recharge and improve water quality by working with underground aquifers to filter pollutants.

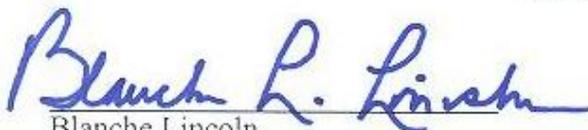
The U.S. has already lost more than half of its original wetlands and continues to lose over 80,000 wetland acres each year. In California alone, more than 90 percent of wetlands have disappeared. NAWCA is helping to reverse this trend of wetland loss.

We commend the support your Subcommittee has provided this program in the past and would like to reiterate the features that few Federal programs can match:

- **The program stimulates the economy and creates jobs.** Wildlife-related recreation generates over \$120 billion of economic output each year. In many cases, this economic activity is vital to the incomes of rural Americans. One study suggests NAWCA directly spurs the creation, on average, of 3,738 new jobs annually in the United States.
- **NAWCA fosters conservation efforts by the non-Federal sector.** Over 3,000 corporate, small business, non-profit, state and local entities have more than doubled NAWCA dollars with matching funds. More than 1,800 on-the-ground conservation projects have been implemented in all 50 states, Canada and Mexico.
- **Farmers and other private landowners support the program.** Every project is voluntary and incentives allow willing landowners to restore wildlife habitat and conservation practices to their private lands.
- **Congress is involved in approving which projects are funded.** The final approval body in the project selection process is the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The seven-member body includes four Members of Congress.
- **NAWCA has strong support from the states.** The 50 state wildlife agencies are active partners in the program.
- **Demand for NAWCA continues to exceed available funds.** During 2005-2006, demand for the program in the U.S. outstripped available funding. NAWCA remains a very popular program among landowners interested and willing to restore and conserve wetlands habitat.

NAWCA represents a fiscally responsible approach to wetlands and wildlife conservation. While we understand the ongoing fiscal restraints, we hope this program and its demonstrable success at developing non-federal funding sources and diverse partnerships will receive the Subcommittee's strongest consideration for the highest funding level possible in FY 2010. Thank you again for taking the time to consider our views and recognizing the importance of future funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Sincerely,



Blanche Lincoln
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Richard Lugar



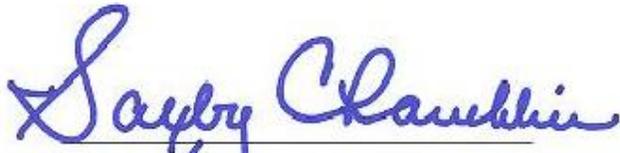
Herb Kohl



Patrick Leahy



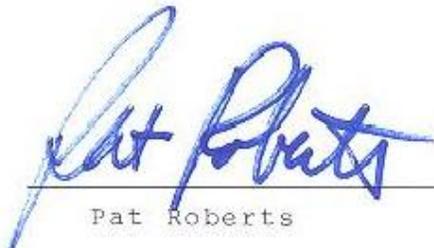
Tom Harkin


Saxby Chambliss


Barbara Boxer


Debbie Stabenow


Christopher "Kit" Bond


Pat Roberts


Frank R. Lautenberg


Richard Durbin

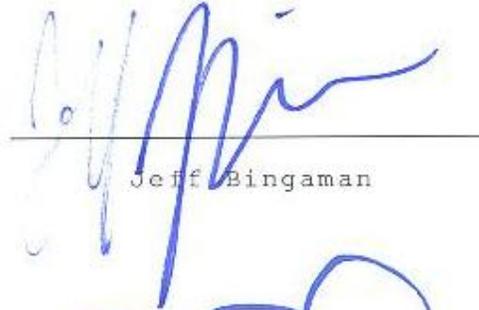

Michael Enzi


David Vitter


Daniel Akaka



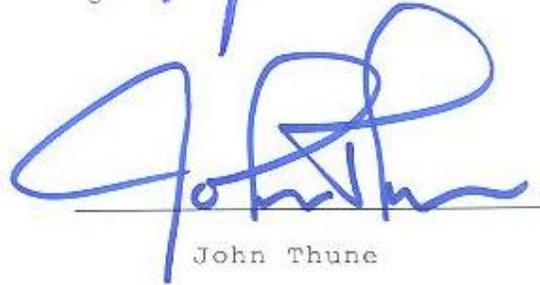
Richard Burr



Jeff Bingaman



Mary Landrieu



John Thune



John Cornyn



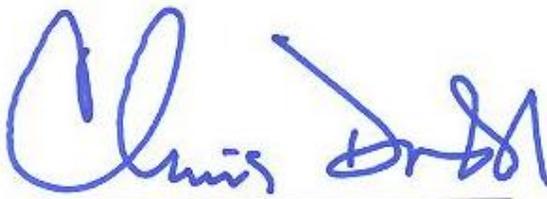
Russell Feingold



Ben Nelson



Michael Johanns



Christopher Dodd



Edward Kaufman


Edward M. Kennedy


Bob Corker


Ron Wyden


Max Baucus


Amy Klobuchar


James E. Risch


Joseph Lieberman

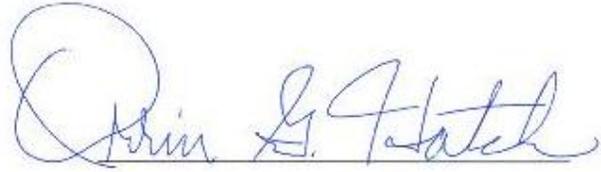

Tim Johnson


Kay R. Hagan


Michael F. Bennet



Benjamin Cardin



Orrin G. Hatch



Mel Martinez



Jack Reed



Sheldon Whitehouse



Carl Levin



Johnny Isakson



John F. Kerry



Mark Warner



Bernard Sanders



Jeanne Shaheen



James Webb



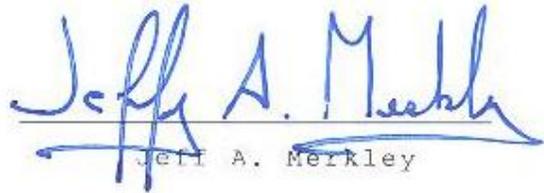
Bill Nelson



Mark Begich



Kirsten Gillibrand



Jeff A. Merkley

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair,
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Alexander:

We are writing to express our support for the State and Tribal Wildlife Program in fiscal year 2010. We appreciate your past support of this program, and we are hopeful that such support will continue through this funding cycle. We believe that the State and Tribal Wildlife Program needs a much greater federal investment, but, given the present budget realities, we are again only asking that \$85 million be provided in fiscal year 2010 to adequately meet the needs of our states.

The State and Tribal Wildlife Program is the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in every state. It is a mission-critical element of the Interior Department's budget, as no other program in the federal budget is focused on this goal. As you know, states bear the primary responsibility for wildlife management, but since the 1930s the federal government has worked in partnership with states to fund enormously successful programs to ensure conservation and sustainable use of wildlife species enjoyed by millions of hunters and anglers across America.

At the same time, many species of wildlife have declined dramatically. The amount of federal funding now needed to restore endangered species is far greater than would have been required to prevent their decline in the first place. Through early, strategic action to conserve declining wildlife populations and their habitats, we can prevent conflicts over endangered species listings, saving both wildlife and taxpayer dollars. Adequate and consistent funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Program is essential to fulfilling the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resources on this kind of smart, effective conservation investment.

When Congress created the State and Tribal Wildlife Program in FY 2001, we asked every state wildlife agency to complete a state wildlife action plan. The action plans were developed by scientists, sportsmen, environmentalists, and other members of the community, who work together to identify practical conservation measures to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. Every state wildlife action plan is officially approved and the state wildlife agencies and their many conservation partners are actively implementing projects on-the-ground. Congress needs to honor our commitment to this

effort by providing the federal share of support for this program as it undertakes this critical multi-year effort. We therefore urge the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies to increase funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Program to \$85 million in Fiscal Year 2010 so that these important wildlife conservation efforts can be sustained. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Blanche L. Lincoln

Blanche L. Lincoln

Mike Crapo

Mike Crapo

Patrick Leahy

Chris Dodd

Edward M. Kennedy

Mike Enzi

Jeff Bond

Olympic Snowy

Bowcarh

Jim Coon

Sayby Chaubkin

Mike Johanns

Phil Hartman

Labete

James

Bob Sanders

Pat Roberts

Von Colwell

Baben By

Jim Johnson

Joe Litz

Allen Fecht

Sherrill Brown

Bill Nelson

Josh Reed

Care McCardell

Al Miller

John Cornyn

Jim Webb

My Bowers

Dail Vitter

Nun Fajth

Shirley

Jay Byrnes

Jim Dulie

Ang Klobuchar

John Barrasso

Jeffrey A. Muller

Ronald Burns

Kristen E. Gilliland

Chuck Sch

Mr. F. But

Ben Audi

Frank R. Laukenberg

Paul Beuch

Ron Wyden

Tom Kampen

J. Kirsch

Janne Skalen

Daniel K. Skatka

Whitmore

Robert Mering

Rebecca Stensow

Mark R. Womers

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
Committee on Appropriations
SD-131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations
Committee on Appropriations
SD-131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Interior Appropriations Subcommittee fund the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program (CWBPP) at its authorized level of \$10 million for FY 2010.

The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, a blue-ribbon panel established by Congress in the early 1990s, recommended in 1993 that Congress establish a \$10 million-a-year emergency program to save priority Civil War battlefields outside National Park Service boundaries. That urgency has only grown in the past 16 years, as some of the most historically significant battlefields in the nation remain unprotected.

Congress has responded to the challenge, first appropriating money for the program in FY 1999. Since then, CWBPP matching grants have been used to save more than 15,000 acres of hallowed ground in fourteen states – properties associated with some of the most renowned battlefields in American history, including: Antietam, Md.; Bentonville, N.C.; Chancellorsville, Va.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Corinth, Miss., Harpers Ferry, W.Va.; Perryville, Ky.; and Prairie Grove, Ark. But more work must be done.

Although authorized at \$10 million annually, the program has received an average \$3.6 million a year since FY 1999. As the nation celebrates the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birth and prepares to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, full funding of CWBPP is critical to saving high-priority, threatened Civil War battlefield sites and thus preserving our history for future generations.

The CWBPP is fully consistent with oft-stated Congressional goals of:

- encouraging cooperative cost-sharing partnerships with state and local governments and non-profit organizations;
- protecting private property rights by limiting land acquisitions to willing sellers only;
- promoting heritage tourism and outdoor education in many regions of the nation; and
- limiting the burgeoning NPS maintenance backlog, since non-federal entities are responsible for the long-term maintenance of sites not within Park Service boundaries.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies consider appropriating the full authorization of \$10 million for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in FY 2010.

Sincerely,



Edward M Kennedy

Mark R Warner

Fay Bailey Hutchinson

Bar Sanders

Bowen

John Conyer

John Conyer

Bob Carey, Jr.

James McHugh

Sayby Chawkin

Blanch L. Linstead

Joe Hill

Gene McCasill

Jay Ruppel

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

On behalf of the more than 12,500 children in America diagnosed with cancer each year, we urge you to fully fund the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which passed the Senate and the House of Representatives unanimously and was signed into law on July 29, 2008. The law authorizes \$30 million annually for pediatric cancer research, awareness, and the creation of a national childhood cancer registry.

Despite improving cure rates, cancer claims the lives of more than 2,000 children each year, and remains the number one cause of death from disease in children. Fully funding this law will:

- **Enhance pediatric cancer research** at the National Cancer Institute to enhance research on the causes, prevention, diagnosis, recognition, treatment, and long-term effects of pediatric cancer.
- **Expand public awareness** by providing information on treatment protocols to ensure patients have early access to the best available therapies, clinical trials, and necessary long-term medical and psychological care. This funding will also provide resources such as educational outreach for parents, peer-to-peer and parent-to-parent support networks, information on school reentry and postsecondary education, and directories or referral services for financial assistance, psychological counseling, and other support services.
- **Create a national childhood cancer registry** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track the epidemiology of pediatric cancer.

As you develop the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$30 million for the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, and for your continuing support of these important goals. If we can provide you with any additional information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

Paul Sanders

Blanch R. Lincoln

Ron Wyden

Tom Kampen

Bob Carey, D. Edward M Kennedy

Patrick Leahy

Chris Dodd

Thorton E. Hillisnal

Mrs. F. B. #

Shirwood Brown

Nun Fisher

John Home

Robert Meneagy

Marl Udell

Chuck Sch

Jim Johnson

Rebecca Petersen

J. L. F. King

James H. Kake

Robert W. Bennis

Paul Byrd

J. Thur

Jim Hubb

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
United States Senate
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

Please join us in supporting continued funding of \$2 million for the Tourette Syndrome Public Health Education and Research Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Fiscal Year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments Appropriations Bill.

As you may know, Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a genetic, neurological disorder, characterized by involuntary movements and sounds that are known as "tics." It is often accompanied by Attention Deficit Disorder or Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. It is estimated that 200,000 Americans have the most severe form of TS. TS is a complex disorder greatly misunderstood by the public and often diagnosed incorrectly, resulting in many people, especially children, needlessly suffering embarrassment, punishment and obstacles in their academic, professional and social endeavors because of unintentional noises or movements.

In 2000, Congress passed the *Children's Health Act* that authorized the Tourette Syndrome Public Health Education and Research Outreach Program at CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. This program was created to increase recognition and diagnoses of TS, decrease the stigma attached to the disorder, and facilitate appropriate, effective treatments to those with TS. Over 15,000 professionals in all 50 states have received training through CDC's program.

We thank you and commend you for your leadership in ensuring ongoing federal commitment to the improvement of health and expansion of research, education, and prevention of diseases and disorders.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate



Jeffrey A. Markley

[Signature]

Olympic Laurel

John F. King

Shirley Brown

[Signature]

[Signature]

Mike Croso

Frank R. Lautenberg

Janet K. Laska

Blanche L. Lincoln

Bob Sanders

Ron Wyden

Bob Casey, Jr.

Krista E. Gillibrand

Albio Sotomayor

Sally Chutkan

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

Through the support of your Subcommittee, Congress has provided full funding for equitable graduate medical education funding for our nation's 60 independent children's teaching hospitals. We respectfully urge you to continue this full funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program in fiscal year 2010.

In 2006, Congress reauthorized CHGME with overwhelming bipartisan support for \$330 million annually for five years. We hope that you will consider an increase in the program's funding to this amount, which would provide full equity with Medicare GME. The program is currently funded at \$310 million for FY2009.

Congress enacted the CHGME program in 1999 to correct an unintended inequity in a GME financing system that had come to depend on Medicare, which effectively left children's hospitals out. The hospitals, mostly major teaching hospitals, were at a serious financial disadvantage in a very price competitive health care marketplace. CHGME has been an outstanding success and now provides the children's hospitals with 80 percent of the federal GME support other teaching hospitals receive from Medicare on average. That's a long way from the days before CHGME when they received less than 0.5 of the federal GME support other teaching hospitals received.

Thanks to CHGME funding, the children's hospitals were able to sustain and improve their teaching programs. Between 2000 and 2005, children's hospitals expanded their training, reversing a decline in pediatric residencies that would have continued without their growth. They accounted for more than 65 percent of the growth in pediatric specialist training, beginning a turn-around in pediatric specialist shortages across the country.

At the same time, by directly strengthening children's hospitals' training programs, CHGME has also indirectly strengthened their roles as the premier pediatric centers of excellence, safety net for low income children in their communities, and centers of pediatric research. In short, CHGME benefits the health of all children by helping to enable children's hospitals to sustain their many services.

Independent children's hospitals have an indispensable role in children's health. They train a large portion of the future pediatric workforce, almost 30 percent of all pediatricians and half of all pediatric specialists, the great majority of pediatric researchers and many other

physicians requiring pediatric training. In addition, they provide almost half the hospital care for children with serious illnesses. They are essential to pediatric trauma care, critical care and our response system for public health emergencies affecting children. Moreover, half the hospital care they provide is for children covered by Medicaid.

CHGME is integral to ensuring a stable future for our children's hospitals. It is also a sound investment in all children's health. We thank you for the Subcommittee's past support for CHGME. We ask you to continue the progress that has been made for many years in CHGME by appropriating Congress' full authorization of \$330 million in the FY 2010 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill.

Jeff Bond

Sincerely,
Edward M. Kennedy

Shirley Brown

Bill Nelson

George V. Voinovich

Clare McCaskill

Whitome

Tom Feingold

Herb Kohl

Dianne Feinstein

Chuck Sch

Mark Udall

Bob Casey, Jr.

Frank R. Lautenberg

Daniel K. Haka

Ben Card

Maria Cochran

Chris F. Jensen

Lamar Alexander

Blanch L. Linsch

Bob Anderson

Lou Corb

Debbie Peterson

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Amy Kloubhar

Robert Menendez

Bob Bob

Pat Roberts

Ron Wyden

John G. Hatch

Chris Dodd

Sally Chaudin

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Olympic Snow

John Corry

Jack Reed

Mark R. Werner

Calvin

John F. King

Tom Kampfer

Joe Kirk

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
166 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

We respectfully request that you include an appropriation of \$10 million for Reach Out and Read under the Fund for the Improvement of Education in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill for FY 2010. Reach Out and Read is widely respected as a national program that promotes literacy and language development in infants and young children. An extensive body of research clearly demonstrates the importance of promoting early language and literacy skills in helping young children begin school ready to learn and succeed. Today, however, large numbers of children still lack the support and assistance needed to develop these essential skills before they begin kindergarten.

To meet this need, the federal government currently provides funding for a variety of early childhood education and literacy programs for children, parents, and the professionals who serve them. Reach Out and Read has become a powerful and effective program for promoting early language, literacy and school readiness, filling the crucial gap before children have access to traditional early childhood programs. It engages pediatricians and other health providers in guiding and encouraging parents to read aloud to their children from the earliest years of life, and send children home from each doctor visit with a prescription to read aloud together. It's an approach that's been proven effective by 15 years of published research.

Over the past nine years, Congress and the Administration have supported this effective approach to pediatric literacy. Since 2000, Congress has provided federal funding for Reach Out and Read through the Fund for the Improvement of Education at the Department of Education. These funds have been matched by tens of millions of dollars from the private sector and state governments, and this extraordinary public-private partnership has achieved remarkable results. Nearly 50,000 health providers in all 50 states have been trained in Reach Out and Read's strategies of early language and literacy promotion, and more than 4,100 clinics and hospitals nationwide have implemented the program, reaching more than 25 percent of at-risk children nationwide.

In recent years, however, federal funding for Reach Out and Read has been reduced significantly, from \$10 million in FY 2005 to \$4 million in FY 2008. Reach Out and Read now has more than 100,000 children on its waiting list for book distribution as a result of this reduction in funding. The shortfall has also shifted program costs to local safety net health providers, including community health centers and hospitals already struggling to maintain services for children. Restoring funding to this essential partnership is vital to maintaining the interest and participation of pediatricians nationwide in helping prepare children for school and life.

Reading at an early age provides a basic foundation for children as they enter school and move through the early grades. Reach Out and Read has been a lifeline for the nation's youngest children in developing their early language and literacy skills. We urge your Subcommittee to provide the requested funding for this important program in the FY2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill.

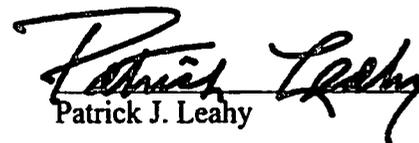
We certify that neither we nor our immediate family have a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. We further certify that we have posted a description of the items requested on our official website, along with the accompanying justification.

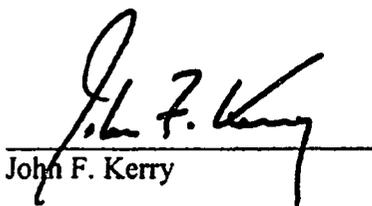
Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy


Charles E. Grassley


Daniel K. Akaka


Patrick J. Leahy


John F. Kerry


Richard Burr


Tom Udall


Mark Begich


Blanche L. Lincoln

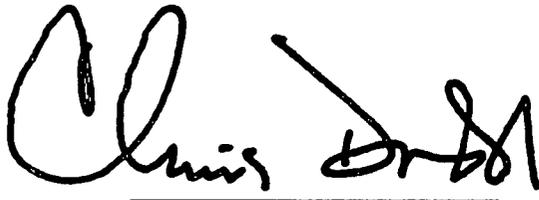

Joseph I. Lieberman

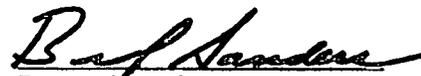

Richard G. Lugar


George V. Voinovich


Robert P. Casey, Jr.

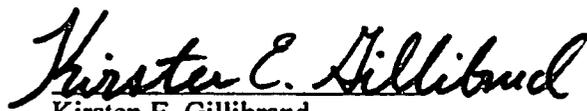

Saxby Chambliss

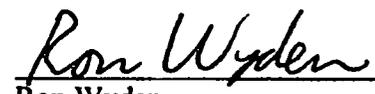

Christopher J. Dodd


Bernard Sanders

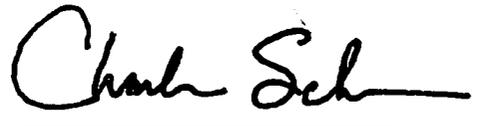

Carl Levin

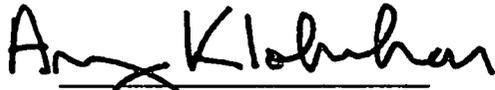

Debbie Stabenow


Kirsten E. Gillibrand

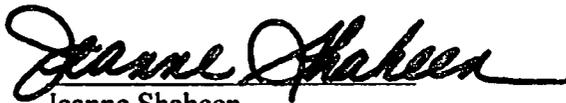

Ron Wyden


Sheldon Whitehouse


Charles E. Schumer


Amy Klobuchar

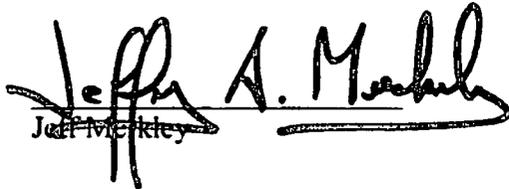

Mel Martinez


Jeanne Shaheen


Mark R. Warner

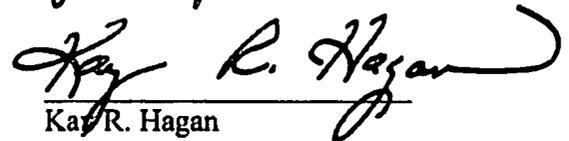

Frank R. Lautenberg

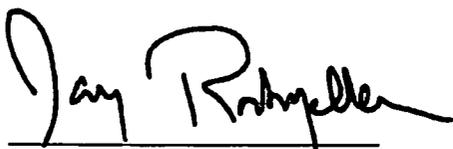

Robert Menendez

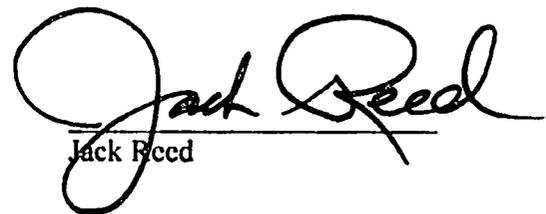

Jeff Merkley

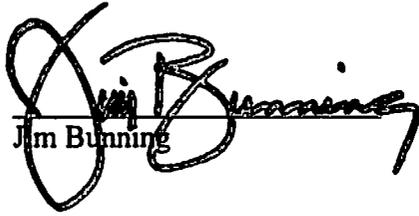

Jeff Bingaman

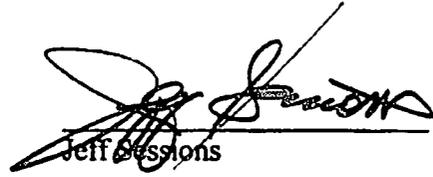

Sherrod Brown

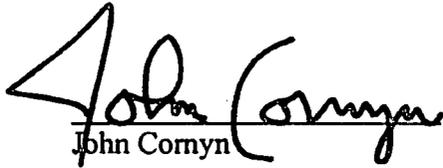

Kay R. Hagan

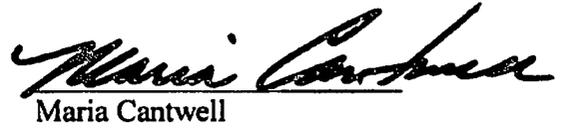

John D. Rockefeller IV


Jack Reed


Jim Bunning


Jeff Sessions


John Cornyn


Maria Cantwell

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

We respectfully request your continued support for federal funding for treatment and cure of Fragile X and its related conditions. Specifically, we seek your support for:

- \$2 million in new funding for the National Fragile X Public Health Initiative and other Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) activities such as collaboration with the Fragile X Clinical & Research Consortium to pursue initiatives that would have the greatest impact on individuals living with Fragile X across the generations.
- Appropriations Report Language requesting that the National Institutes of Health:
 - Enhance its efforts across its Institutes to translate basic science findings into viable treatments for Fragile X, and encourage clinical drug trials for this orphan indication.
 - Maximize Fragile X resources by ensuring that appropriate resources and direction is provided to implement the objectives outlined in the Fragile X Research Blueprint.
 - Strengthen and broaden research on Fragile X, Fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome (FXTAS), and Fragile X-associated primary ovarian insufficiency (FXPOI).

Fragile X Syndrome and associated disorders are the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability, causes a wide range of mental and physical impairment. Nearly a third of males with Fragile X meet full criteria for autism and most meet criteria of autism spectrum disorder, making it the most common genetically-caused form of autism. Fragile X can affect an entire family across generations, with as many as 1 in 130 female, and 1 in 700 male premutation carriers. Approximately 1 in 3,600 males and 1 in 4,000 to 6,000 females are born with the full mutation. Fragile X associated disorders— FXTAS, a Parkinson's-like condition among some older male carriers, and FXPOI, early menopause in female carriers— affect thousands more.

Public efforts, including three National Institute of Child Health and Human Development-funded Fragile X Research Centers and the CDC's Fragile X Clinical & Research Consortium, are two initiatives that have great impact on individuals living with Fragile X. The Committee's past support of the important work underway at the NIH and CDC will have a considerable impact on the important projects under consideration at these agencies. Yet there is even more that needs to be done. To translate basic scientific findings into viable treatments for Fragile X, additional coordination and resources are required.

While we understand the challenges the Committee faces in prioritizing requests, we believe support for enhancing Fragile X research and public health activities is imperative given the

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter,

Thank you for your work to invest in the infrastructure of America's health care safety net. Millions of Americans have lived longer and healthier lives due to your efforts. In order to continue that work with the goal of bringing care to all Americans in need, we respectfully request that you provide \$2.602 billion for the Health Centers program in the FY2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation. The Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-355), which was unanimously passed by Congress, authorized this funding level.

As you know, the Health Centers program is a community-run health-care delivery system that is open to all regardless of their ability to pay. At a time when health-care costs have dramatically increased across the country, health centers have kept their costs well under those of other healthcare providers. In addition, years of research have shown that health centers actually save the health system money, and that their patients have better outcomes and use hospital emergency rooms less than those who get their care in other settings. Simply put, the Health Centers program works and we sincerely appreciate your continued efforts to expand this important program.

Thanks to the leadership of the Committee, health centers are now the health-care home for more than 18 million Americans. And yet, there continues to be overwhelming demand for community health centers and the primary care services they provide in communities nationwide, with scores more high-quality applications for health centers than funding available. During these difficult economic times, existing health centers are seeing a surge in their patients and the pressing need for health care access in areas without a health center is even more acute. In order to serve truly those in need across the country, we must continue to support and expand existing health centers and develop new centers in underserved areas. This FY2010 funding request is an investment in a longer-term plan envisioned by the Health Care Safety Net Act to provide care in a health center to 30 million Americans by 2015.

We hope to work with the Subcommittee to guide this investment around several priorities. First, a significant and strategic investment in existing health centers is needed to help them meet the increasing demand for services in the communities they serve. Second, new and expanded health centers should be funded in communities with little or no access to care. Lastly, in order to make a comprehensive range of necessary services available at every health center, funding should be provided to integrate mental health, oral health, and pharmacy services in high need communities.

We know your subcommittee has a very difficult task ahead, but we strongly urge you to continue the health center-expansion effort to communities in need by increasing federal funding for the Community Health Centers program to the authorized level of \$2.602 billion for FY2010. Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working with you this year to continue to expand this important program.

Sincerely,

Patricia Schroeder Kit Bond

Mike McClellan Sheldon Brown

Tom Udall Barbara Boxer

Jim Johnson Jim Blaker

Ernest Inoué Frank R. Lautenberg

Herb Kohl Dick Lugar

Mark Udall Jim Bunning

Chuck Sch Ann Fejert

John Stone Kent Conrad

Deane Stales Robert Menning

Robert G. Neuberger My Barnes

Joe Hill Tom Fin

John Reed John Hest

W. Murray Bill Nelson

Tom Casey Dorothy Feinstein

Blanch R. Lincoln Kay R. Hazen

Bill Sanson Ray Wicker

Ron Wyden Mike Croso

Phil Beahm Carl Levin

Jim Webb

J. F. King

~~ACAS~~

Bob Carey, Jr.

Mike Johnson

Tom Kampen

Sally Chauslin

Patrick Leahy

Chris Dodd

Mark R. Warner

Kristen E. Gillis

Roland W. Brown

J. G. ...

Cherie McCasill

Ed Kennedy

M. F. ...

J. E. ...

Maria ...

Jeffrey S. Mack

John Cornyn

Angie ...