

April 4, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representative:

I write to you on behalf of Trust for America's Health (TFAH) to express concern over cuts to discretionary public health programs proposed in the House Budget Resolution. TFAH is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. TFAH urges you to vote "**NO**" on a Budget Resolution that does not contain significant additional funds for health and education programs.

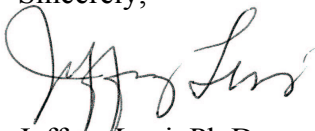
While the Resolution does set aside \$2.3 billion to address an avian influenza pandemic, it also cuts \$1.1 billion from public health programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In fact, overall the budget calls for \$18 billion in cuts to these agencies between now and FY 2011. These cuts could not come at a worse time and are in stark contrast to the additional \$7 billion provided for health, education, and training programs passed in the Senate with the resounding bipartisan support of 73 Senators.

After decades of less than optimal investment, our public health system lacks the resources it needs to tackle the full range of health threats -- from preparing for potential chemical or biological attacks, to addressing serious chronic disease epidemics like cancer and asthma, or responding to emerging infectious diseases like an avian flu pandemic. You, your loved ones, or your constituents could be the next victims of these health threats.

It is essential that CDC, HRSA, NIH and other public health agencies reflect the vital role they play in the life of every American, including their increasing responsibilities for homeland security. While we understand that Congress must make tough decisions in the face of a growing deficit, protecting and improving the health of the nation must be a top priority. Unfortunately the FY 2007 Budget Resolution produced by the House Budget Committee last week does not meet this goal.

Again, for these reasons, TFAH urges you to oppose the House Budget Resolution unless it includes a significant increase for health, education, and training programs. Without these funds, the Budget Resolution would undermine America's health and security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Levi". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey Levi, Ph.D
Executive Director