



Coalition of National Health Education Organizations

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The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

The Coalition of National Health Education Organizations (CNHEO) respectfully requests an opportunity to testify at upcoming hearings of the United States House of Representatives' Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee concerning appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004. We are particularly interested in testifying on the need and benefits of fully funding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) programs in school health, physical activity and obesity, and the elimination of health disparities.

The CNHEO is a nonpartisan coalition of nine national professional organizations committed to mobilizing the resources of the Health Education Profession in order to expand and improve health education. Among other activities, the CNHEO serves as a communication and advisory resource for agencies, organizations, and persons in the public and private sectors about health education issues. Coalition member groups represent more than 25,000-health education and health promotion professionals and students in elementary and secondary schools; universities; state and local health and education departments; community-based organizations; health care facilities; and corporations, both nationally and internationally. The organizations comprising this coalition are:

- American Association for Health Education
- American College Health Association
- American Public Health Association/Public Health Education and Health Promotion Section
- American Public Health Association/School Health Education & Services
- American School Health Association
- Association of State & Territorial Directors of Health Promotion and Public Health Education

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- Eta Sigma Gamma
- Society for Public Health Education
- Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

The CNHEO gratefully acknowledges the strong bipartisan support that the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education has provided to the CDC in recent years. Yet, data indicate that public health needs in 2004 will be among the most serious yet. Chronic diseases are the nation's leading causes of morbidity and mortality and account for more than 70% of the nation's \$1 trillion spent on health care annually.

We look forward to the opportunity to present further testimony and state-specific examples of the need to fully fund programs in CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

Sincerely,

Ellen Capwell, PhD, CHES
CNHEO Coordinator