



**ACTION ALERT – CALL YOUR SENATOR NOW TO PRESERVE HIV AND STD PREVENTION FUNDING IN FISCAL STIMULUS!**

Included in the new national fiscal stimulus package that Congress is debating is \$400 million for HIV and STD prevention funding. This funding is sorely needed; adjusted for inflation, CDC's HIV prevention budget has decreased by 19.3 percent since fiscal year 2002. CDC's STD budget has declined 15 percent since 2002 as well. The money should be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention to prevent some of the most common, costly and controllable infectious diseases in the U.S.

In discussing the stimulus bill, President Obama has continually stated that the country must shore up and improve its infrastructure. The infrastructure of our public health system, particularly the public health workforce must not be ignored in these discussions. One quarter of the current public health workforce will be eligible to retire by 2012; we must invest now in training and retaining the next generation of public health professionals. States are in desperate need of resources to tide their public health programs over until their budget situations improve.

**There may be efforts in the U.S. Senate to remove this prevention funding from the fiscal stimulus package. We need EVERYONE to call their Senator now and let them know how important this funding is to you!**

*Economic Benefits of Investing in HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention are Many* - Chronic underinvestment in prevention has resulted in sustained transmission, severe health disparities, spiraling healthcare costs and public health work burnout and attrition. The funds included in the stimulus would directly be responsible for creating jobs, modernizing healthcare infrastructure and reducing unnecessary healthcare costs.

**Please call your Senator now and ask them to say no to any amendment to eliminate HIV and STD prevention funding from the fiscal stimulus package!**

Please go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) to find the contact information for your Senator!