



UPDATED ACTION ALERT ON FUNDING COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS BY THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

We need your help!

**THIS IS THE MAJOR REQUEST WE WILL MAKE TO YOUR ORGANIZATION THIS YEAR AS
A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL VIRAL HEPATITIS ROUNDTABLE**

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH and
HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION OF CONGRESS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU, THEIR
CONSTITUENTS!!!**

Background

Representatives Michael Honda (D-Ca) is being asked to sponsor a \$1 million earmark for CDC to fund a comprehensive study of chronic hepatitis in the U.S. The study will “comprehensively assess the incidence, prevalence, demographics of persons living with chronic viral hepatitis in the United States. It would evaluate individuals’ access to and utilization of healthcare resources and the associated health care expenditures attributable to chronic viral hepatitis. Lastly, the study would develop an action plan to reduce morbidity and mortality by identifying the optimal approaches for disease surveillance, prevention of transmission, and the most efficient and effective disease management models for chronic viral hepatitis.” The AASLD, the ALF, the NVHR, the Asian Liver Center, the Hepatitis B Foundation, and AAPCHO have signed on in support of such language.

Other members of the sub-committee are more likely to support Representative Honda if they receive letters from their constituents asking them to co-sign.

Action Needed to Contact Members of the House of Representatives

- 1) Call a Representative on the House sub-committee and ask them to support Representative Honda’s proposal.**
- 2) Please sign on to the NVHR letter by notifying Dick Conlon (Rconlon@nvhr.org) by close of business May 18, 2007.**



May 11, 2007

The Honorable Michael M. Honda
U.S. House of Representatives
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to the fight against diseases caused by chronic viral hepatitis (HBV and HCV). Through your leadership, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is now playing a significant role in turning the tide against chronic viral hepatitis. We, the undersigned, remain deeply concerned about the continued transmission, increased disease burden and healthcare disparities generated by chronic viral hepatitis in the United States.

As you prepare the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we are writing to request your support of \$1 million for the CDC to fund a critical study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) that would inform and guide future health care policies for people living with chronic viral hepatitis.

The above-mentioned study by the IOM would, for the first time, comprehensively assess the incidence, prevalence, demographics of persons living with chronic viral hepatitis in the United States. It would evaluate individuals' access to and utilization of healthcare resources and the associated health care expenditures attributable to chronic viral hepatitis. Lastly, the study would develop an action plan to reduce morbidity and mortality by identifying the optimal approaches for disease surveillance, prevention of transmission, and the most efficient and effective disease management models for chronic viral hepatitis.

The IOM study will be critical in bringing the best science and assessment tools to bear against the tough questions we face today. As the FY 2008 appropriations process is underway, we look forward to working closely with you and the Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies in support of this important funding request.

The undersigned organizations representing thousands of patients, their families, and others touched in some way by chronic hepatitis sincerely request that you sponsor this request for CDC funding of an IOM study of chronic hepatitis.

Sincerely,

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
American Liver Foundation
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Caring Ambassadors Program, Inc.
Center for Health Improvement
Education for Healthy Choices
Foundation for Healthy Living
H.E.A.L.S of the South
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hep-C Alert
Hepatitis Prevention, Education, Treatment & Support Network of Hawaii
Immunization Action Coalition
Latino Organization for Liver Awareness
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Medical Association
Parents of Children With Infectious Diseases
The AIDS Institute

Private Individual:
Esther Paek, MD MPH
Anna Lok, MD

3) Send a letter from your specific organization (copy attached) asking the members of the subcommittee to support Representative Honda's proposal. Here is the list of committee members.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

The Honorable [David R. Obey](#) (D-WI)
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey (D-NY)
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI)
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee (D-CA)
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Udall (D-NM)
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Honda (D-CA)
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum (D-MN)
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Ryan (D-OH)
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh (R-NY)
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph Regula (R-OH)
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John E. Peterson (R-PA)
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Weldon (D-FL)
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson (R-ID)
1339 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dennis R. Rehberg (R-MT)
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

3) Send the following letter to other members of the subcommittee with others who are interested in see action on viral hepatitis.

May XX, 2007

The Honorable [MEMBER NAME]
U.S. House of Representatives
[ADDRESS]
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman [Last name]:

Please see attached our letter to the Honorable Mike Honda, signifying our coalition's strong support for appropriating funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in order to sponsor the Institute of Medicine study on chronic viral hepatitis.

Sincerely,

4) Be sure to note the deadline for notifying Dick Conlon of your plans to sign on to the NVHR letter. The deadline is May 18, 2007.

5) Feedback: If a Representative's office indicates a willingness to support Representative Honda be sure to let us know by email to Dick Conlon, rconlon@nvhr.org.

6) Forward this alert to your members and other organizations with an interest in this effort.