

Geriatric Funding

**** High Priority ****

Attached is a copy of the press release developed to inform everyone about the critical situation with funding for geriatrics. The defeat of the Conference bill last week has given us a brief reprieve. We need to act IMMEDIATELY. Please customize the press release to your area by using the attached pdf file. You may want to use dollar amounts showing how much your university/state will lose if Title VII is not funded. You can remove the announcement about the speakers and the press conference. Get the release to your local media markets, Let them know what the impact will be on the care of the elderly in your area and on funding for geriatric education and training in your state. If possible, try to set up a press conference in your area.

Right now the House leadership is targeting those Republicans who voted against (No) the conference report (Roll Call Vote 598) to get them to change their vote. We must call those congressmen and ask them to hold firm in support of reinstatement of funding for geriatrics at the Senate level of \$29.5 million. For those congressmen who voted yes (i.e., in favor of leaving geriatrics at \$0), call and urge them to vote against eliminating funding for geriatrics,

You can find out how your Representatives voted at the following link:

<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll598.xml>.

We must ACT NOW. Word is that the goal is to bring this to vote by December 5th. We cannot let the bill get out of Conference Committee without money being reinstated for geriatrics. Begin by contacting the senators and representatives on the Conference Committee and following up on the Roll Call vote as indicated above.

Here is the list of the Conferees:

Senate: Specter (R-PA), Cochran (R-MS), Gregg (R-NH), Craig (R-ID), Hutchison (R-TX), Stevens (R-AK), DeWine (R-OH), Shelby (R-AL), Domenici (R-NM), Harkin (D-IA), Inouye (D-HI), Reid (D-NV), Kohl (D-WI), Murray (D-WA), Landrieu (D-LA), Durbin (D-IL), Byrd (D-WV)

House: Regula (R-OH), Istook (R-OK), Wicker (R-KY), Northup (R-KY), Cunningham (R-CA), Granger (R-TX), Peterson (R-PA), Sherwood (R-PA), Weldon (R-FL), Walsh (R-NY), Lewis (R-CA), Obey (D-WI), Hoyer (D-MD), Lowey (D-NY), DeLauro (D-CT), Jackson (D-IL), Kennedy (D-RI), and Roybal-Allard (D-CA).

We will be sending template letters for you to send out on NAGEC and NAGE letterhead to your legislators, There will be 2 versions, one for GECs and one you can use to rally your consortium partners.

Contact your university governmental affairs people and get them to lobby in favor of restoring funding for geriatrics. We have a brief time to act. Call your legislators both at home and in Washington. If you cannot speak directly with him or her, speak directly with the health legislative aide.

Thank you for your help. We cannot give up now! I am away at GSA. If you need to reach me, my cell phone number is below.

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