

Other Strategies for GEC Funding

Department of Defense Strategy to secure funding for geriatrics

**** High Priority ****

NAGEC has been working with Susan Emmer and the American Geriatrics Society to identify a strategy for reinstatement of funding for geriatrics. Please read the following [version edited], which is being circulated to AGS members and the GEC listserv. We need to be seeking support for this approach as we likewise encourage the senators to vote NO on the conference bill passed by the House. This is our best strategy to still get some money reinstated for geriatrics. Please focus on the Senators and Representatives listed below.

2006 Funding for Geriatric Health Professions Program

Your Immediate Action is Needed

Placing Title VII support for geriatric education in serious jeopardy, the House has passed a revised conference report that zeroes out funding

for geriatrics appropriations. The Senate is considering the bill today, with a vote expected by this afternoon.

If the Senate passes the bill, it will go to the President for certain signature, eliminating the geriatrics health professions program.

We are asking you for a final effort to reinstate that money and we need

you need to act today -- by calling your Senators and Representatives and urging them to use the Department of Defense appropriations bill to

fund the geriatrics health professions program.

Title VII supports geriatric faculty fellowships, Geriatric Academic Career Awards, and Geriatric Education Centers (GECs). Last year Congress provided \$31.5 million in funding for these programs.

Please tell your Senators and Representatives that some level of funding

for the program, even significantly below \$31.5 million, can be paid for

under the planned across the board cut for all appropriated programs in

the DoD bill. The program is small enough that it will not be felt by other programs due to the magnitude of the cut.

Your Senators and Representatives or their staff may ask you how to fund this in the DoD bill when it was not included in the Labor-HHS bill. You should respond that there is a precedent for this type of action, under prior appropriation's bills. In addition, the GECs have been involved in emergency and bioterrorism preparedness efforts, providing training to providers and community leaders and working with other agencies.

The following Republican Senators are on the DoD appropriations subcommittee and are a particular target: Stevens (AK), Cochran (MS), Specter (PN), Domenici (NM), Bond (MO), McConnell (KY), Shelby (AL), Gregg (NH), Hutchinson (TX), and Burns (MT). The following Republican Representatives are on the DoD appropriations subcommittee and are a particular target: Young (FL), Hobson (OH), Bonilla (TX), Frelinghuysen (NJ), Tiahrt (KS), Wicker (MS), Kingston (GA), and Granger (TX).

Please read on to learn how you can take action on this issue by contacting your members of Congress.

If you live in one of the following states, please [click](http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml) here to find specific House and Senate representatives to contact who are directly involved in shaping the bill.

Alabama

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#alabama
> Nevada
http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#nevada

Alaska

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#alaska

New

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#new_hampshire

California

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#california

New Mexico

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#new_mexico

Connecticut

http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#connecticut

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#new_york> York

Florida

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#florida>
> Ohio

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#ohio>

Hawaii

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#hawaii>

Oklahoma

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#oklahoma>
>

Idaho

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#idaho>

Pennsylvania

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#pennsylvania>

Illinois

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#illinois>
> Rhode

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#rhode_island> Island

Kentucky

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#kentucky>
> Texas

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#texas>

Louisiana

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#louisiana> Washington

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#washington>

Maryland

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#maryland> West

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#w_virginia> Virginia

Mississippi

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#mississippi> Wisconsin

<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/2006_HSconferees.shtml#wisconsin>

Action Requested

Please contact your members of Congress by phone, email, or fax immediately.

Calling: To phone congressional offices, simply call the Capitol switchboard at 1-202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to the office you are trying to reach. To email Senate offices, go to www.senate.gov <<http://www.senate.gov/>> ; to email House offices, go to www.house.gov <<http://www.house.gov/>> .

If you are calling Hill offices, ask to speak to the staffer who handles appropriations issues. In your phone call:

1. Request that the member of Congress you are contacting preserve funding for the geriatric health professions programs contained in Title VII through the DoD appropriations bill.
2. Explain how these programs train health care providers to care for the growing elderly population in your area. Losing Title VII funds will end the only federal program that specifically helps to train academic geriatricians.
3. Emphasize that eliminating funding will result in decrease access for the growing number of older patients in the U.S. in need of the specialized care provided by geriatric health professionals.
4. Provide specific examples, if possible, of what the elimination of this funding means for your program, for your GEC, for your state. Click here <<http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/FY04grants!minus8.xls>> for a state by state list of grants made in FY 2004 .

Emailing or Faxing: Click <http://www.americangeriatrics.org/policy/funding_sample.shtml> here for a sample letter

Emailing: To email Senate offices, go to www.senate.gov; to email House offices, go to www.house.gov <<http://www.house.gov/>> .

Faxing: If you are writing to hill offices, you are advised to fax

your
correspondence. Incoming mail is still screened for possible
contaminants and subject to lengthy delays. Click here
<[http://www.americangeriatrics.org/portal/grassroots/senhouse_numbers.sh
tml](http://www.americangeriatrics.org/portal/grassroots/senhouse_numbers.shtml)> for fax numbers. Fax copies of your letters to Laura Allendorf
at
703-242-9291 so we can keep track of the contacts made to Hill offices.

Thank you on behalf of the GEC network and all geriatrics programs.
Elyse

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