

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2006

The Honorable Joseph Knollenberg
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Treasury, and Housing and Urban
Development, the Judiciary, District of
Columbia and Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Treasury, and Housing and Urban
Development, the Judiciary, District of
Columbia and Related Agencies
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

We are writing to let you know of our strong support of \$90 million for the Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant program for FY 2007. This sum would include \$2 million for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute. While our recommendation is \$10 million above both last year's appropriated amount and the President's FY 2007 budget request, it remains \$9 million below what is authorized for FY 2007. We understand that this year's funding constraints are significant, but believe the DFC program warrants a \$10 million increase because it has proven effective in reducing teen drug and alcohol use in communities around the country to levels much lower than the national average. In addition, this program received one of the highest OMB PART scores of any program in the Executive Office of the President. Finally, the funding for the DFC program has historically been insufficient to meet the overwhelming demands for the program.

It is crucial that communities around the country are organized to respond to their local drug problems in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. The DFC program recognizes that federal anti-drug resources must be invested at the community level with those who have the most power to reduce the demand for drugs, namely parents, teachers, business leaders, the media, religious leaders, law enforcement officials, youth and others.

Last year's appropriation included \$2 million for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute. This level of funding is necessary for FY 2007 as well because it will allow the Institute to provide the necessary training, technical assistance and performance evaluation components needed to make existing coalitions more effective in reducing drug abuse and to increase the number of community coalitions nationwide.

The DFC program has achieved impressive outcomes:

In Troy, Michigan, the Troy Community Coalition contributed to a 33% decrease in 30-day inhalant use among 12th graders from 2000 to 2004.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition contributed to a 14% decrease in 30-day marijuana use among 12th graders from 2001 to 2003.

Communities throughout the country are achieving similar results. We have attached an information sheet that further demonstrates the effectiveness of these programs.

With the exception of last year's appropriation, Congress has approved annual increases of \$10 million a year. Yet despite these increases, funding available for this program historically has been insufficient to meet the program's overwhelming demand. Supporting \$90 million for the DFC program in FY 2007, with \$2 million included within the program total for the Institute, will allow scores of additional communities nationwide to build and sustain effective community coalitions that are the backbone of successful local anti-drug efforts. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


TOM OSBORNE
Member of Congress


SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member


Member of Congress


Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member of Congress


Member of Congress

John Deros
Member of Congress

Jim Leach
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Mike Rouss
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Tom Coburn
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Stephanie Herseth
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Adam Smith
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Rob Zornow
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Jim Rostenkowski
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Sam Backus
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Deirdre
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Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Neil Burgess
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Cathy McMoris
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Emmanuel
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Jeff Davis
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