



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

NOV 01 2007

THE DIRECTOR

October 30, 2007

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Maloney:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2007, requesting funding for World Trade Center emergency responder health care in the President's FY 2009 Budget. I appreciate your input.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been tracking and screening World Trade Center emergency responders since 2002. HHS is currently overseeing the expenditure of funding for the treatment, screening, and monitoring of World Trade Center emergency responders awarded to grantees in October 2006. In May 2007, the President signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007, which included an additional \$50 million for this activity. This \$50 million in funding remains available as grantees continue to obligate funding appropriated in FY 2006. The FY 2008 Budget requests an additional \$25 million for medical treatment of World Trade Center related illnesses for emergency responders. HHS is gathering additional financial data from grantees in order to better understand the healthcare cost issues of the responders, and will continue to monitor the work of grantees.

As you know, the President's Budget for FY 2009 is due to Congress no later than February 4, 2008. Preparation of the FY 2009 Budget is currently underway to allocate appropriate resources for programs within a fiscally responsible budget. The Budget will reflect our nation's highest priorities, including supporting our troops, strengthening our homeland security, and promoting sustained economic growth. We believe the President's pro-growth economic policies, coupled with spending restraint, are key to keeping us on track to continue to reduce the deficit in the coming years. We will take careful note of the issues raised in your letter and will keep your concerns in mind as we evaluate the many competing requests for Federal funding.

Thank you again for sharing your perspective as we prepare the President's FY 2009 Budget and for taking the time to communicate your priorities.

Sincerely,



Jim Nussle
Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

The Honorable Vito Fossella

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer

The Honorable Christopher Shays

The Honorable Edolphus Towns