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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025  
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TERRENCE E. SAUVAIN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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February 20, 2007

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

Now that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Joint Funding Resolution, H.J. Res. 20, has been signed into law, I strongly urge that you give very careful consideration to including support for the following projects and funding levels in the agency's funding plan to be submitted to the Committee, pursuant to Title I, Section 113:

- \$6.5 million for Marshall University for the construction of a Rural Health and Residency Education Center to serve as a patient care and clinical training site in Southwestern West Virginia. The project would extend Marshall's Family Practice program and its Internal Medicine and Combined Medicine Pediatrics programs to areas in the state that continue to struggle in recruiting primary care physicians.
- \$4.5 million for West Virginia University for the construction of a Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center. The Center would focus on clinical diagnosis and treatment, patient education in West Virginia, family and care giver support, and basic and clinical research pertaining to multiple sclerosis. The MS Center would act as a means to research the potential treatments and/or cure for Multiple Sclerosis, a chronic degenerative disease of the nervous system for which there is no singular diagnostic test, and currently no cure.
- \$4 million for Mountain State University for completion of three advanced medical technology labs, five state-of-the-art foundational science labs, two medical computer labs, one demonstration lab, and an advanced medical technology Learning Resource Center. These laboratories will be established in the Allied Health Technology Tower, which is scheduled to be completed in July of this year, and for which \$4 million was provided in FY 2005.

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- \$3.5 million for West Virginia University (WVU) for the construction and equipping of medical simulation research and training centers in Charleston and Martinsburg, West Virginia. These locations would be equipped with sophisticated mannequins linked to advanced computer technology that can mimic actual physiological conditions such as heart failure and stroke. This technology can simulate realistic clinical conditions in the classroom without using either animal or human subjects. Such technology also promotes critical thinking skills and improves clinical skill development while significantly reducing the risk to patients in the educational clinical setting.
- \$2.7 million for Marshall University for the Bioengineering/Biomanufacturing Institute. The Institute is to be a significant component of the newly opened Biotechnology Science Center at Marshall.
- \$1.75 million for Marshall University for the Virtual Colonoscopy Outreach Program. The Colonoscopy program aims to bring cutting-edge screening and diagnostic services for the detection and treatment of colorectal and other cancers to Southern West Virginia. Marshall University has worked for the past year with focus groups, market analysis, national equipment vendors, and health care providers to put in place a plan focused on creating a comprehensive mobile screening program for Southern West Virginia utilizing the computed tomography scan (CT)-based cancer screening and care, coupled with the advanced virtual colonoscopy technology capabilities in partnership with officials at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- \$1 million for the expansion and remodeling of the Wetzel County Hospital Emergency Department. This is the first major renovation of the Emergency Department since the Hospital was opened in 1979. Because emergency care has changed dramatically over 26 years, the Emergency Department must currently be prepared to deal with issues such as increased drug abuses and overdoses, all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accidents, chemical exposures, mining disasters, and industrial and complicated accidents.
- The FY 2006 enacted \$60.5 million for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) facility in Morgantown, West Virginia. This funding level is \$800,000 above the President's FY 2007 budget request of \$59.7 million for the NIOSH facility. This level of funding is needed to sustain the

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approximately 465 full-time employees at the Morgantown facility. Without the additional \$800,000, it may be necessary to reduce the facility's workforce by up to 10 full-time employees.

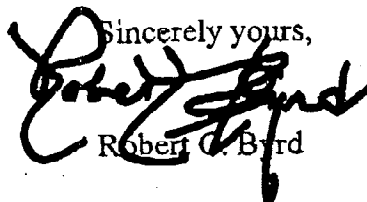
- The Alcohol Abuse Reduction program was authorized during Senate consideration of the No Child Left Behind Act, and allows high schools to implement alcohol prevention programs. With eleven million alcohol users between the ages of 12 and 20, this project is important as it includes one or more of the proven strategies for reducing underage alcohol abuse as determined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It is my hope that the Department of Health and Human Services will continue to work with the Department of Education on this important program.
- \$44 million for the Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program allows CDC to fund programs in 28 states, including West Virginia, for states and communities to plan for and initiate nutrition and physical activity programs to help prevent and control obesity and other chronic diseases.
- The President's FY 2007 budget request of \$6 million for Black Lung Clinics.

I would appreciate a follow-up report from you regarding these initiatives, including the level of funding each item may receive in FY 2007. If you decide to proceed with these important initiatives, please advise me of the milestone events leading to their full implementation.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact my Appropriations Staff Director, Mr. Terry Sauvain, at (202) 224-7200. I look forward to your prompt response.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Byrd

RCB:cbg