

**THE
CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**
OF THE UNITED STATES

April 3, 2006

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations, I am writing to strongly encourage you to support the restoration of funding for domestic discretionary spending in the House Budget Resolution. If domestic discretionary funding is not restored to at least maintain the FY2005 budget level, as adjusted for inflation, then I urge you to vote against final passage of the House Budget Resolution.



CHA has long supported programs that affect the health and well-being of our nation, including nursing workforce development programs, community health care programs, and vital housing programs such as Section 202 for the elderly. The proposed budget resolution would reduce funding to \$7 billion below the FY2005 funding level for programs funded through the Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill. These programs and the people they serve are not the primary cause of our current budget deficit, and they should not bear a disproportionate share of the burden of deficit reduction. We support a responsible House Budget Resolution that achieves a fair balance between addressing the nation's long-term budget deficit and preserving vital programs that help to sustain, protect, and strengthen our families and communities.

CHA asks that the federal government uphold its responsibility to those served by these and other vital programs by restoring FY2007 funding levels to at least the FY2005 budget level, as adjusted for inflation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Rodgers".

Michael Rodgers
Sr. Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006-5409
Phone 202-296-3993
Fax 202-296-3997
www.chausa.org