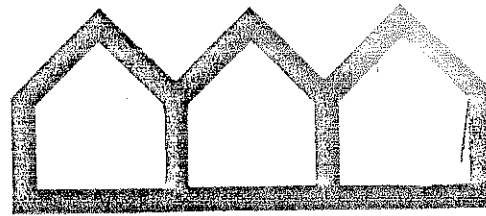


ACTION MEMO



...requiring your immediate attention!

National Association of Community Health Centers
1625 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20006

August 6, 1980

SITUATION: FY'81 APPROPRIATIONS MAY CRIPPLE HEALTH CENTERS

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HEW has marked up the 1981 Appropriations bill.

Although the figures have not been officially released, inside sources state that FY-81 Appropriations for health centers are drastically below the President's revised request. This means that health centers will take a cut, regardless of the dollar level, especially in the face of ever-rising inflation.

It is important to note that in view of the House lower appropriation level, that the Senate level must be significantly higher in order to offset the House level.

With proposed cuts in health center appropriations and National Health Service Corps, fiscal year 1981 may permanently cripple many health centers.

HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO:

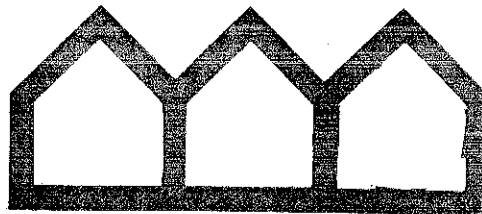
- 1.) Call, telegram or visit your Senator no later than August 23rd and encourage him to support the President's revised budget request levels of:

Community Health Centers - \$357.6 million
Migrant Health Centers - \$44.7 million
National Health Service Corps Placement - \$87.2 million

- 2.) Tell him what a 20% to 30% cut will do to you. You MUST express the needs that will result at your own center.

* THE VERY EXISTENCE OF MANY HEALTH CENTERS, INCLUDING YOUR OWN, *
* MAY DEPEND ON HOW YOU GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS TO YOUR SENATOR. *

ACTION MEMO



...requiring your immediate attention!

National Association of Community Health Centers
1625 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20006

August 5, 1980

TO: ALL HEALTH CENTERS

SITUATION: NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS CUTS SERIOUSLY ENDANGER HEALTH CENTERS

The National Health Service Corps is one of the primary resources for health manpower.

Legislation reauthorizing the National Health Service Corps is not expected to clear Congress in time to allow Appropriations Committees to approve FY-81 funds for the Corps. If a continuing resolution (a temporary funding bill) is passed at the 1980 levels, approximately 1,000 scholarship students will be released from their obligation. Also, the Public Health Service will not be able to fund some 120 NHSC volunteers. This means that hundreds of communities (and health centers) will be denied health manpower. YOUR HEALTH CENTER MAY SUFFER DRASTICALLY BECAUSE OF THIS!

ACTION:

Congressman Henry Waxman, Chairman of the IFC Health Subcommittee, has introduced HR 7911 (the Health Planning Technical Amendments of 1980), a bill which will authorize the National Health Service Corps at \$94 million for FY-81 (the minimum amount needed to fund the Corps).

This bill is expected to reach the House floor for a vote on August 25th and must have a 2/3 majority to pass!

HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO:

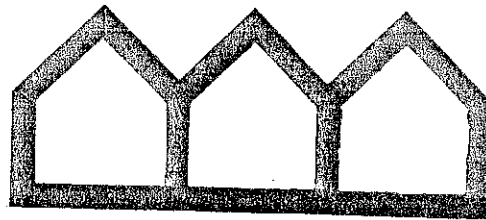
1. Call and telegram your Congressman/woman and tell him/her how important the National Health Service Corps is to your community and their constituencies. Ask him/her to be present and vote for HR 7911 to extend authority for the NHSC program.

You must take this action before Friday, August 22nd. (Remember, the House is recessed until August 18th. Take advantage and talk to your Congressional representative while they're home.)

2. Let your Senator know that you support HR 7911, so that they know your position as they face the issue.

 * THE SUCCESS OF YOUR HEALTH PROGRAM DEPENDS ON HOW WELL YOU MAKE THE CASE TO YOUR LEGIS- *
 * LATORS. LET THEM KNOW THAT WITHOUT THIS ONE-YEAR EXTENSION, YOU MAY BE OUT OF BUSINESS. *
 * ***** *

ACTION MEMO



...requiring your immediate attention!

National Association of Community Health Centers
1625 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 420, Washington, D.C. 20006

May 16, 1980

TO: Federally-Supported Health Centers

FROM: Tom Van Coverden, Allen Ball

RE: FY-1981 APPROPRIATIONS

THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL - YOU STAND TO LOSE OR GAIN - BELIEVE ME!

I. SITUATION:

The "House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HEW" is scheduled to decide ("markup") FY 1981 funding levels for health programs May 27 or shortly thereafter. The "Senate Appropriations Labor/HEW Subcommittee" is slated to markup around June 2. This is the most critical stage of the funding process.

II. BUDGET CUTS - THE MOOD IS GLOOMY:

Last week, the House soundly defeated all "Budget Resolutions" which, although balanced budgets, would have added more funding for health. The Senate "Budget Resolution," which would cut health programs \$700 million below the President's revised budget, is up for consideration this week. Most observers are skeptical about chances to increase levels there. If adopted by Congress, this could mean a 10%-20% cut in programs.

When the "House Subcommittee on Labor/HEW" considered "supplemental appropriations" for FY 1980, they adopted a position of--no increases--only decreases. Accordingly, a badly needed "supplemental" for the National Health Service Corps was not considered, and programs under the "Health Services Administration" lost \$16 million (Research and Demonstration, Black Lung Clinics, Family Planning, Emergency Medical Services and Maternal and Child Health). Some "rescissions" were not approved, mainly those dealing with research and capitation support to medical schools, which lobbied heavily for their programs.

III. PROBLEM:

1. Health Centers (Community, Rural, Migrant, Indian) stand a very good chance for funding cuts in FY-81. Further cuts in the National Health Service Corps could result in additional losses of health professionals beginning October 1.
2. No matter how well your center may be doing regionally or locally, if adequate funding is not appropriated at the national level, your project will suffer.

(over)

Note: On Appropriations, no bill number is assigned until reported by Full Committee. Until such time, it is referred to as FY 81 Appropriations - IHEW Bill

3. Although we have kept you apprised and many of you have responded to "Action Memos" such as this, the voice of health centers has not been loud enough. Mass support from boards, patients and community groups has not been generated.

--BELIEVE ME - THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS AND THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW--

IV. HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

1. Contact your Congressmen before May 27 and Senators before June 2.
2. Ask them to support your FY-81 funding recommendations (which have been revised) as follows:
 - A. Community Health Centers¹ - \$391 million
 - B. Migrant Health - \$44.7 million
 - C. National Health Service Corps Placement - \$103 million
 - D. Indian Health Service - \$678 million
3. Tell your Congressman and two Senators to contact the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HEW urging support of your recommendation and explaining the need:
 - House: William Natcher (D-Ky) Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor/HEW
 - Senate: Warren Magnuson (D-Wash) Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor/HEW
4. A large number of your projects:
 - A. have not had an adjustment for inflation in several years,
 - B. have a deficit, have had to direct layoffs, have cut services, or have restricted or cut off patient enrollment,
 - C. have experienced recent reductions in NHSC personnel.
 - You must convey this message clearly to your Congressman and Senators and tell what he or she may expect if your recommendation is not appropriated. Explain in terms of a 20% cut in your grant.² BE DRASTIC.
5. Get broad, mass support from staff, patients, the board, community leaders, organizations, and groups. Use phone calls (to local or Washington offices), mailgrams, letters, etc.³
6. Please send us copies of correspondence or let us know who you contacted.
7. Those centers in states with Congressmen or Senators on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HEW are critical (list attached). You must make contact.

FOOTNOTES

¹Includes hospital affiliated primary care centers, research and demonstration projects and black lung clinics.

²You can assume at least a 20% cut if inflation is running at 18.5%. Explain in terms of layoffs, cut services, people not served.

³Groups such as churches, 4-H, banks, city-county officials, hospitals, NAACP, etc.

LEGISLATIVE TERMINOLOGY

Refer to words in quotes in Action Memo.

1. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HEW - that Subcommittee in the House of Representatives which determines funding levels for all programs within the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare.
2. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HEW - same as above, except in the Senate.
3. Appropriations - the amount of money made available by an act of Congress to fund programs authorized by Congress in a given year. Programs are funded once a year in the major "Regular Appropriations" bill for that Department or Departments. Our funding bill is called the "Appropriations for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare for fiscal year 1981."
4. Supplemental Appropriations - money added to a program (not included in the regular appropriations discussed above) at some point during a fiscal year by an act of Congress.
5. Markup - the point in the legislative process where either a subcommittee or full committee draft or amend a bill. In the Appropriations process, it is the point at which funding levels for each program are decided upon.
6. Rescission - when Congress takes back money it has already appropriated, with or without a formal request from the President. A rescission requires approval of both houses of Congress.
7. Budget Resolution - a resolution adopted by both houses of Congress setting ceilings on spending and projecting revenue. The Budget Act requires at least two such resolutions; the first setting targets, the second setting final amounts. Think of the Budget Resolution as a glass and appropriations as water which fills the glass only to its capacity.
8. Health Services Administration - that part of HEW (in which the Bureau of Community Health Services is located) which is responsible for the management of health centers and NHSC placement. Administers HEW's direct service delivery programs.
9. Action Memos - the communication's tool used by NACHC to alert members of NACHC about current legislative developments requiring their attention and/or action. About ten are issued each year.
10. Budget - refers to the President's Budget, submitted in January of each year to Congress, projecting revenues and expenses. For individual programs, it is the President's requested funding level. The current Budget is for fiscal year 1981 (October 1, 1980 - September 30, 1981).
11. Revised Budget - refers to President's Budget changes. This is not a normal occurrence. For political reasons and to deal with inflation, the President did revise his FY-81 Budget in March, subtracting some \$18 billion in spending to balance the Budget. For our program, the reductions were as follows: CHC \$33 million, IHS \$25 million, NHSC \$36 million.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

SENATE

Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman - Wash. -- 1108 Dirksen
Robert C. Byrd - W. Va. -- 133 Russell
William Proxmire - Wisc. -- 5241 Dirksen
Ernest F. Hollings - S.C. -- 115 Russell
Thomas F. Eagleton - Mo. -- 1209 Dirksen
Birch Bayh - Ind. -- 363 Russell
Lawton Chiles - Fla. -- 437 Russell
Quentin Burdick - N.D. -- 451 Russell
Daniel K. Inouye - Haw. -- 105 Russell

Richard Schweiker - Pa. -- 253 Russell
Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. - Md. -- 358 Russell
Mark O. Hatfield - Ore. -- 463 Russell
Lowell P. Weicker - Conn. -- 313 Russell
Harrison "Jack" Schmitt - N.M. -- 248 Russell

Zip: 20510

HOUSE

William H. Natcher, Chairman - Ky. -- 2358 Rayburn
Neal Smith - Iowa -- 2373 Rayburn
Edward J. Patten - N.J. -- 2332 Rayburn
David R. Obey - Wisc. -- 2230 Rayburn
Edward R. Roybal - Calif. -- 2211 Rayburn
Louis Stokes - Ohio -- 2465 Rayburn
Joseph D. Early - Mass. -- 1032 Longworth

Robert H. Michel - Ill. -- 2112 Rayburn
Silvio O. Conte - Mass. -- 2300 Rayburn
George M. O'Brien - Ill. -- 2439 Rayburn
Carl D. Pursell - Mich. -- 1414 Longworth

Zip: 20515

May 19, 1980

LATE NOTE

Senator Mathias (R-Md.) has expressed an interest in proposing an amendment to increase health center and NHSC funding. He will not act, however, unless he has support from other Senators on the Committee.

If your Senator is on the Committee, please ask his staff to contact Ms. Jill Porter in Senator Mathias's office; phone (202)224-8875, noting their support and/or interest immediately.



Tom Van Coverden