

For Immediate Release:
November 14, 2007

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**President's Veto of Domestic Spending Bill
Contradicts Goals to "Keep America Competitive"**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 14, 2007)—President Bush has repeatedly emphasized the importance of improving our health care system to "keep America competitive," yet his veto of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 3043) earlier this week sends a very different message: programs to help Americans compete are not a priority.

The president's actions speak louder than his words. While the President stresses the need to confront rising health care costs, reduce dangerous medical errors through health information technology, and help all Americans access affordable health insurance, he has vetoed legislation that funds the very research and data required to meet those goals. Americans must have reliable information about their doctors, hospitals, health plans, and treatment options and policymakers need accurate and unbiased health services research that can inform evidence-based public policies.

H.R. 3043 provides modest but necessary funding increases for agencies that support the research and data needed to address our health system's myriad challenges. The Coalition for Health Services Research—representing nearly 4,000 health services researchers, policy analysts, and institutions—urges all Members of Congress to vote to override the President's veto, and secure funding for health services research and health data.

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