



December 14, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Harkin, Representative Tiahrt and Senator Cochran:

On behalf of the Friends of NCHS, please accept our thanks for your continuing support of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2010. As the nation's principal health statistics agency, NCHS provides critical data on all aspects of our health care system.

The Friends of NCHS commend you for the serious and sustained investment you have made in NCHS over the last two years. With the nearly \$139 million you have provided NCHS in FY 2010, as well as clear direction to NCHS to protect the integrity of seminal surveys and preserve vital statistics collection, NCHS will continue to rebuild and evolve into a 21st Century statistical agency capable of measuring the impact of health reform and identifying ongoing health needs.

The Friends thank you for your ongoing support of NCHS and look forward to helping you further strengthen the agency.

For more information about the Friends of NCHS, including a list of our member, please visit <http://www.chsr.org/friendsofnchs.htm>, You may also contact the Friends representative, Emily Holubowich, at 202.484.1100 or eholubowich@dc-crd.com).