

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING ALLIANCE

Alexander Graham Bell
Association for the Deaf &
Hard of Hearing

American Academy
of Audiology

American Academy of
Otolaryngology-Head
and Neck Surgery

American Society for
Deaf Children

American Speech-Language-
Hearing Association

Conference of Educational
Administrators of Schools
and Programs for the Deaf

Council of American
Instructors of the Deaf

Cued Language Network
of America

Hearing Loss Association
of America

Media Access Group
at WGBH

National Association
of the Deaf

National Court Reporters
Association

National Cued Speech
Association

Registry of Interpreters
for the Deaf

TECUnit

Telecommunications
for the Deaf, Inc.

Consumer Co-Chair: Barbara Raimondo
Professional Co-Chair: Pete Wacht

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April 28, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable Jim Walsh

The Honorable Robert Byrd
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Arlen Specter

Dear Conferees:

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance (DHHA), a coalition representing national professional and consumer organizations, appreciates your work this year to ensure adequate funding for federal programs that support individuals who are deaf or have experienced hearing loss.

DHHA appreciated the funding Congress was able to provide for Fiscal Year 2008, including needed increases for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs.

As you put together the spending bill for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education for Fiscal Year 2009, we respectfully ask that you support the following programs at levels recommended by the DHHA:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)

EHDI programs include screening (the initial test of infants for hearing loss), audiological diagnostic evaluations (to confirm hearing loss), and early intervention (including medical services, early intervention programs, and family support) to enhance language, communication, cognitive and social skill development, needed to be successful in school and all other aspects of life. *FY2009 Request - \$14 million*

National Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD)

NIDCD is one of the Institutes that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Established in 1988, NIDCD is mandated to conduct and support biomedical and behavioral research and research training in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language. The Institute also conducts and supports research

and research training related to disease prevention and health promotion; addresses special biomedical and behavioral problems associated with people who have communication impairments or disorders; and supports efforts to create devices which substitute for lost and impaired sensory and communication function. *FY2009 Request - \$432.9 million*

U.S. Department of Education

Special Education:

Grants to States

Formula grants are provided to States to assist them in providing special education and related services to children with disabilities ages 3 through 21. *FY2009 Request - \$11.7 billion*

Preschool Grants

The Preschool Grants program provides additional support to States and schools for providing special education services to children ages 3 through 5. *FY2009 Request - \$418.8 million*

State Personnel Development Program

The State Personnel Development program, established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) Amendments of 2004, provides grants to assist State educational agencies in reforming and improving their systems for personnel preparation and professional development of individuals providing early intervention, educational, and transition services to improve results for children with disabilities. *FY2009 Request - \$55.1 million*

Infants & Toddlers Program

The Infants & Toddlers grant program provides assistance to States to help them implement statewide systems of early intervention services for children from birth through age 2. *FY2009 Request - \$480 million*

Technical Assistance and Dissemination

The Technical Assistance and Dissemination program is the primary vehicle under the IDEA for putting information into the hands of individuals and organizations serving children with disabilities and their families. The program makes awards to provide technical assistance, support model demonstration projects, disseminate useful information, and implement activities that are supported by scientifically based research. These awards are intended to improve services provided under the IDEA, including the practices of professionals and others involved in providing services that promote academic achievement and improve results for children with disabilities. *FY2009 Request - \$54.3 million*

Personnel Preparation

The purpose of this program is to (1) help address state-identified needs for highly qualified personnel in special education, related services, early intervention, and regular education to work with children with disabilities and (2) ensure that those personnel have the skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined through research and experience to be successful, needed to serve these children. *FY2009 Request - \$99.7 million*

Parent Information Centers

The purpose of this program is to ensure that parents of children with disabilities receive training and information to help improve results for their children. Awards are made for parent information centers, community parent centers, and for technical assistance to such centers.

FY2009 Request - \$28.6 million

Technology and Media Services

The purpose of this program is designed to: (1) improve results for children with disabilities by promoting the development, demonstration, and use of technology; (2) support educational media services activities designed to be of education value in the classroom setting to children with disabilities; and (3) provide support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in the classroom setting. This program supports technology development, demonstration, and utilization. Video descriptions and open captioning that is appropriate for use in the classroom also is supported if the description or captioning has not been previously provided or fully funded by other sources. ***FY2009 Request - \$42.7 million***

Vocational Rehabilitation

The basic State grants program provides Federal matching funds to State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to assist individuals with physical or mental impairments to become gainfully employed. Services are tailored to the specific needs of the individual. Priority is given to serving those with the most significant disabilities. ***FY2009 Request - \$3 billion***

Assistive Technology

Formula grants are made to States to implement comprehensive State wide programs designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to obtain assistive technology. States conduct activities that include alternative financing programs, device reutilization programs, device loan programs, and device demonstrations. Funds also support national technical assistance activities. ***FY2009 Request - \$33 million***

Helen Keller National Center

The Center provides services to deaf-blind youths and adults and provides training and technical assistance to professional and allied personnel at its national headquarters center and through its regional representatives and affiliate agencies. ***FY2009 Request - \$10 million***

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

This residential program provides postsecondary technical and professional education for people who are deaf to prepare them for employment, provides training, and conducts applied research into employment-related aspects of deafness. ***FY2009 Request - \$62.1 million***

Gallaudet University


This institution provides undergraduate and continuing education programs for persons who are deaf and graduate programs related to deafness for students who are deaf and students who are hearing. The University also conducts basic and applied research and provides public service programs for persons who are deaf and persons who work with them. Gallaudet operates two elementary and secondary education programs on the main campus of the University. The Kendall Demonstration Elementary School serves students who are deaf from infancy through age 15, and

the Model Secondary School for the Deaf serves high school age students who are deaf. Both schools also develop and disseminate information on effective educational techniques and strategies for teachers and professionals working with students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
FY2009 Request - \$119.4 million

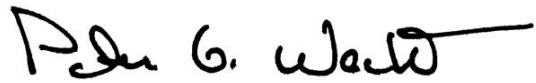
Thank you for your continuing commitment to help address the needs of those with hearing loss in our community. Please feel free to contact DHHA's Federal Representative, Patrick Cooney, at (202) 347-0034 (patrick@federalgrp.com) with questions you may have regarding this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Barbara Raimondo, Co-Chair



Pete Wacht, Co-Chair

FY2009 Funding Requests for Federal Programs Supporting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Agency	Account	FY08 Funding	DHHA Request
HHS	Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHD)	\$11.8 million	\$14 million
HHS	Nat. Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	\$394.14 million	\$432.9 million
Ed	Special Education: - Grants to States Part B - Preschool Grants - State Personnel Dev. - Infants & Toddlers Program - Technical Assistance - Personnel Preparation - Parent Information Ctrs. - Technology and Media Services	\$11.04 billion \$374.1 million \$22.6 million \$435.6 million \$48.05 million \$88.2 million \$26.5 million \$39.3 million	\$11.7 billion \$418.83 million \$55.1 million \$480 million \$54.3 million \$99.7 million \$28.6 million \$42.7 million
Ed	Vocational Rehabilitation	\$2.9 billion	\$3 billion
Ed	Assistive Technology	\$29.9 million	\$33 million
Ed	Helen Keller National Center	\$8.4 million	\$10 million
Ed	National Technical Institute for the Deaf	\$59.7 million	\$62.1 million
Ed	Gallaudet University	\$113.4 million	\$119.4 million