



Tom Harkin, U.S. Senator



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)
RE: **Analysis of the U.S. House's Budget Cuts on Health Care in Iowa**
DATE: February 17, 2011

This week, the U.S. House is considering a budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2011. The current funding proposal expires on March 4, 2011. Analysis released today shows that the budget proposal will have a detrimental impact on health care in Iowa. **The math is simple: any decrease in access to health care forces sick Iowans into emergency care, and that drives up costs for everyone.**

There is no question that the time has come for tough budget decisions, but **the smart way to bring down the deficit is for Congress to pursue a balanced approach of major spending cuts and necessary revenue increases, while continuing to make investments in health care.**

Below are some specific cuts Iowa will face in health care if the House budget is enacted.

Maternal Child Health Block Grant

The House plan cuts \$50 million from grants to prevent infant mortality, provide perinatal services for low-income and first time mothers and provide family-centered care for children with special needs.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa:** Iowa would lose approximately \$285,000, including a \$105,000 cut to the Child Health Specialty clinics, currently operating in 13 communities in Iowa. The remaining cut will be distributed among 24 organizations providing pre-natal and post-partum care for women all over Iowa, and to the I-Smile child dental screening program. A map of the Iowa areas impacted by these cuts can be found [here](#).

Community Health Centers

The House plan eliminates all funding for 127 clinics in 39 states, providing health care services to 2.9 million Americans.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa:** Iowa's 12 community health centers and satellite clinics would lose a portion of their funding. The clinic in Centerville, Iowa would lose all federal funding. The Centerville clinic provides primary healthcare services to approximately 3,000 Iowans each year.

Health Professions

The House plan cuts health professions training programs by 30 percent despite nationwide shortages. In a time of widespread unemployment, health care is hiring.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa:** Nine Iowa institutions (listed below) currently receive a total of \$3.5 million each year to train nurses, physicians, pediatricians, geriatricians and dentists. A 30 percent cut would take just over \$1 million from Iowa's training institutions. Meanwhile, the

federal government officially recognizes 38 Iowa counties as having a current shortage of health professionals, 49 counties as having a dental shortage, and 84 counties as having a mental health professional shortage. According to a Governor's task force, seven health care occupations are among those ranked in the 20 most likely to grow in Iowa from now until 2014. Registered nurses are among the 10 occupations projected to incur the most annual openings, and nursing aides, orderlies and attendants fall within the 20 most likely to grow.

ALLEN COLLEGE OF NURSING
CLARKE COLLEGE
GRACELAND UNIVERSITY
IA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IOWA DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PALMER COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC
ST AMBROSE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Emergency Preparedness Grants

The House plan cuts \$269 million or 38 percent from public health emergency preparedness grants. These grants help states monitor and respond to outbreaks, as well as set up networks of hospitals and clinics that plan how to accommodate a surge in patients, whether it be from a bioterrorist attack, an epidemic like the flu or the result of a natural disaster like a tornado or a flood.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa:** Iowa would lose \$2 million, almost 30 percent of its funding. This grant allowed Iowa to respond to the 2006 mumps outbreak where Iowa suffered 2,000 of the 2,600 cases nationwide. This cut comes just two months after two independent national groups ranked Iowa as last in the nation for readiness to contain an outbreak. Iowa met only five of 10 indicators on preventing and containing new disease outbreaks and other emergency preparedness factors, according to the report.

Poison Control Centers

The House plan reduces the nation's poison control center funding from \$27 million to \$2 million, closing most of the nation's 57 poison control centers.

Estimated Impact on Iowa: The Iowa State Poison Control Center (ISPCC) will close. The ISPCC handled 61,673 calls last year. Last year, the ISPCC saved the state of Iowa \$8.3 million by preventing these unnecessary health care expenses. Every dollar invested in ISPCC saves \$11 to Iowa's healthcare system.

For all of the latest information on the budget process, please continue to visit <http://harkin.senate.gov/>.