



National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council
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Alert Health

American Liver Foundation

Aspirations Wholistic Tutorial Services

Arizona Hepatitis C Coalition

Bosco's Buddies

California Hepatitis Alliance (CALHEP)

Caring Ambassadors Program

**Center for the Study of Hepatitis C
 Weill Cornell Medical College**

Georgia Doty Health Education Fund

HCV Support

H.E.A.L.S. of the South

Hepatitis C Association, Inc.

Hep C Connection

Hepatitis C Support Project

Hepatitis Education Project

Hep Help of NJ Alliance, Inc.

Hepatitis Prevention, Education, Treatment & Support Network of Hawai'i

Hepatitis Research Foundation

Liver Health Today

Liver Hope, Inc.

Missouri Hepatitis C Alliance

Monmouth & Ocean County Hepatitis C Coalition, Inc.

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

New Mexico Hepatitis C Alliance

San Luis Obispo Co. Hepatitis C Project

Spears Foundation

St. Luke's Texas Liver Coalition

Status C Unknown

Support Increased Funding for Viral Hepatitis

Deadline: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 **World Hepatitis Day**

Dear Representative _____:

Please support the *National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council's* goal to have at least 100 co-sponsors for **HR 3974, *Viral Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Control and Prevention Act of 2009***. We urge you to become a co-sponsor of this important bi-partisan public health legislation by May 19, 2010, *World Hepatitis Day*. HR 3974 amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a comprehensive prevention, education, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) viruses. This legislation will lead to a marked reduction in the disease burden associated with chronic viral hepatitis and liver cancer and will help to avoid billions of dollars in health care costs in the coming decade.

This legislation is critical to developing a comprehensive viral hepatitis program to prevent new infections and lower the increasing health care costs associated with HBV and HCV. It will support desperately needed services, including HBV and HCV education, counseling, testing, and referral for medical care, and HBV vaccinations.

- ❖ Nearly 5 million Americans are infected with HBV and HCV. The majority are unaware they are infected.
- ❖ Hepatitis B and C are the leading causes of liver cancer, one of the most deadly, expensive, and fastest growing cancers in America.
- ❖ The CDC estimates that in 2007 approximately 43,000 Americans were newly infected with HBV and 17,000 with HCV. These diseases combined cause at least 15,000 deaths annually.
- ❖ Hepatitis B and C are leading causes of death for persons living with HIV. Nearly 25% of HIV-positive Americans are also infected with HCV and nearly 10% with HBV.

To co-sponsor this urgently needed legislation, or if you have any questions, please contact

Bernardette Arellano Bernardette.arellano@mail.house.gov 202-225-2631 (Rep. Honda, D. CA)

or Laura Stevens Kent laura.stevens@mail.house.gov 202-225-6411 (Rep. Dent, R.PA)

[Please add any personal story about yourself, organization or information about hepatitis in your State here IF YOU CHOSE TO DO SO or delete this section:

Sincerely,

Name
 Affiliation (if any)
 Address

Together by need. United by choice.