

Greetings!

NAQC News Flash



\$75 Million for Tobacco Cessation Removed from Senate Economic Stimulus Bill

Just Released NAQC Issue Paper Helps Make the Case for Quitlines

Over the weekend, we heard from the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids that a decision was made to remove the specific allocation of \$75 million for tobacco cessation from the Senate Economic Stimulus bill to be debated this coming week (starting Monday, at 2 pm ET). This was an extremely important provision, and we would like to see the funds reinstated. Many people supported the \$75 million for cessation.

It is unclear why this action was taken. There was a powerful case to be made for the provision as shown in the materials included in this communication (See "Important Resources" below). It is important to note over \$1 billion in health prevention and wellness funds remains in the bill, and quitlines are eligible for these funds.

We would like to ask you to consider taking several steps to help reinstate the \$75 million cessation provision into the bill. Although some of you may not be able to take this action as part of your job, we ask that you please consider taking action as a private citizen:

- 1) Please let Senator Tom Harkin know you appreciate his commitment to reducing tobacco use and to his effort to include tobacco cessation specific funding in the Stimulus. Also, please emphasize the importance of funding for tobacco cessation and expanded quitline services and urge him to continue to fight to insure that tobacco prevention and cessation receive its share of the substantial new funding from the Stimulus allocated to CDC. An estimated 1,500 new jobs would be created with an investment of \$75

million, many of these jobs for women and racial and ethnic populations (an important point given Congressional concerns about the first half of the stimulus going to male-dominated professions).

2) Please let other members of the Senate know you believe that tobacco cessation is a critical part of health disease prevention and it should be part of any stimulus and receive substantial additional financial support. You can use the resources provided in this communication, which focus on tobacco cessation as critical to public health benefits and job creation, to help make the case.

Please send a copy of your communication to NAQC at lbailey@naquitline.org, if possible. Please let us know if you need additional assistance. Many thanks for your help in this effort.

Important Resources:

-NAQC Issue Paper: [Tobacco Cessation Quitlines - A Good Investment to Save Lives, Decrease Direct Medical Costs and Increase Productivity](#)

-CTFK Talking Points

-Full Name and Link to Your Senators:

http://action.tobaccofreekids.org/site/PageServer?pagename=view_legislators (Note: Enter zip code 50005 for Sen. Harkin)

Contact Us With Questions

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email: naqc@naquitline.org

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