



American Public Health Association  
Student Assembly

## **Urgent Action Alert for February 2008**

### **TAKE ACTION NOW!**

*In just a few minutes you can easily send an email to your representatives, print out a template letter to mail, access information to formulate your own letter, or get updated on issues that your community needs to know about at [www.capwiz.com/apha/home](http://www.capwiz.com/apha/home)*

#### **Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008**

The 2003 U.S. Global Leadership Act Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act established the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and since then, PEPFAR has treated and cared for 8 million people living with HIV and provided mother-to-child HIV transmission services for women during more than 10 million pregnancies. The current bill supports a comprehensive approach in the fight against HIV/AIDS, addressing the vulnerabilities of women and children, linking prevention programs with education, counseling and testing and life skills programs, training health-care workers, and focusing on vaccine research. It also supports global plans on tuberculosis and malaria, coordinates among all three diseases and across various U.S. government agencies implementing other health and development programs.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 has been **postponed until Thurs., Feb. 14**. Please continue to contact members of the committee and urge them to attend the mark-up and vote in favor of a bill that includes strong policy and necessary resources for AIDS, TB and malaria!

#### **Help Insure More of America's Children**

On Wednesday, January 23, 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives failed for the second time to override President Bush's veto of legislation to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The bill would have reauthorized SCHIP at nearly \$60 billion over five years, expanding the program by \$35 billion. To offset the cost of the expansion, it would increase the tax on cigarettes by 61 cents, to \$1 per pack, and raise taxes on other tobacco products. The override attempt failed by a vote of 260-152, 15 votes short of the two-thirds majority required. Passage of the SCHIP reauthorization remains a priority for APHA. We will continue our efforts this year to expand the program to cover 10 million children.

It is urgent that you send a message to the President urging him to reconsider his decision and to sign the bill into law!

#### **New Bill Would Reverse the EPA Decision on State Emissions Standards**

Lawmakers in the U.S. Senate introduced legislation that would direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to grant California a waiver under the Clean Air Act to implement more stringent greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles. It would also permit other states to adopt California's emissions standards. Currently, 18 other states have adopted California's standards or are moving towards adopting them. The bill would overturn the EPA's decision in December to deny the request by California and 16 other states for the authority to regulate emissions. Please contact your representative today!