

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
February 16, 2007

The Honorable Elizabeth Duke
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Duke:


We are writing to ask that you fund important North Dakota health projects within the fiscal year (FY) 2007 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) budget. The FY2007 continuing resolution (CR) that was recently signed into law should provide your agency with the flexibility to fund important projects in our state aimed at improving healthcare access and resources.

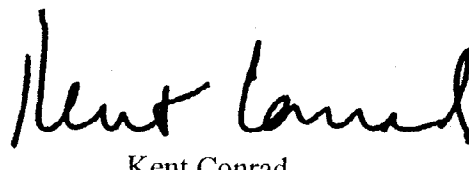
In particular, we urge you to fund the following initiatives.

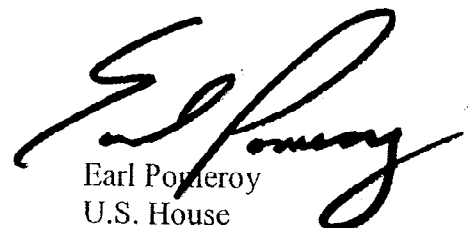
- North Dakota Telepharmacy Project – This project uses video conferencing to help establish, restore and retain pharmacy service in rural North Dakota.
- Rural Communications Disabilities at Minot State University – This project is aimed at improving health services to people individuals with disabilities living in rural America.
- The University of North Dakota (UND) Center for Rural Health – The Center conducts outreach and training to help promote health, reduce disease, and eliminate health disparities for all youth and adults in North Dakota.
- The UND Forensic Facility – This project will construct a forensic facility that will link important health services research and bioterrorism/mass fatality training at the school's medical school.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration of this matter. If you should need any information on any of these projects, please don't hesitate to contact us. In the meantime, we look forward to working with you during the FY2008 appropriations process to ensure HRSA receives the adequate resources needed to continue its health initiatives, especially those that impact North Dakota.

Sincerely,


Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senate


Kent Conrad
U.S. Senate


Earl Pomeroy
U.S. House

Rockville MD 20857

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The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Thank you for your letter of February 16 expressing your support of providing funds for several projects in the State of North Dakota. The Agency is grateful for projects that seek to address the health of our Nation through technology, outreach and training.

I regret that the fiscal year 2007 Continuing Appropriations Resolution does not include funds for earmarks as stated in Public Law 110-5, H. J. Res. 20.

I look forward to continued work with you during the current session of Congress. A similar letter is being sent to Senator Conrad and Representative Pomeroy.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Duke
Administrator