

From: [FAIR Foundation](#)
To: [Veronica Wong \(veronica.wong@mail.house.gov\)](mailto:veronica.wong@mail.house.gov);
CC: [FAIR Foundation Board of Directors](#);
Subject: Rep. Issa's laudable effort and alerting of new information he/you can use
Date: Monday, July 27, 2009 9:51:53 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.gif](#)

TO: Veronica Wong, Legislative Health Assistant for Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA), Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
RE: Representative Issa's effort to reverse inappropriate HIV funding here: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090724/hl_nm/us_usa_healthcare_aids_1

Dear Veronica,

Thank you for taking time to speak with me this morning. I reiterate, on behalf of our [26-member Board of Directors](#) of surgeons, medical directors, dentists, pharmacist, and patient advocates, our admiration of Representative Issa's laudable and courageous amendment of one version of healthcare reform legislation to bar three projects to study AIDS transmission among Chinese and Thai prostitutes and Russian alcoholics.

We urge Rep. Issa to include all such inappropriate research projects in his amendment—projects [such as one](#) that studies HIV risk factors of men who have sex with prostitutes in Tijuana. All HIV funding is listed [here](#) to cull from; however please note that there are many such improper grants for HIV also being funded with hepatitis C dollars listed [here](#). For example, we object to US hepatitis C funds being used to study "Epidemiology of HIV and Hepatitis C Among Injecting Drug Users in Tijuana (\$761,297), Couples-Based HIV/STI Prevention for Injecting Drug Users in Kazakhstan (\$676,058) and Nutritional Status In HIV Hispanic Drug Abusers (\$660,216)." We recently joined with a hepatitis C organization, HepCop, in issuing a national press release on this issue and you may read that [here](#).

I mentioned to you that in countering objections to Rep. Issa's effort you may wish to reply with the following:

- Millions of Americans are upset at the exorbitant favoritism for HIV in NIH biomedical research funding and that wherever we exhibit and show our banner with the statistics as you see them below, a new member joins our organization's existing thousands of members every 1-2 minutes for 6-7 hours of the convention. You may

view many of those Americans who would strongly support Rep. Issa [here](#).

- Quote the Director of the NIAID, America's top HIV researcher and the man who oversees the \$2.9 billion HIV budget and this inappropriate HIV funding, Anthony Fauci, MD. Dr. Fauci stated on CNN, "...the scientific advancements that have been made in HIV [research] are breathtaking [with] highly effective drugs to suppress HIV to the point where what was a death sentence in the early eighties to now having patients who look and feel well, who are leading very productive, very gratifying lives..." You may actually view him saying that in our press release link provided above.
- Reference that in comparison to the one million Americans with HIV/AIDS, the CDC estimates over close to 100 million with cardiovascular disease and diabetes and when those with all other non-AIDS illnesses are added to the list, including 6,000 with rare diseases, it is easy to see how unfair the bias towards HIV is to all non-AIDS illnesses.

In regards to the argument you will receive that the NIH scientists should determine how bio-medical research funds are allocated, not politicians, we note that the same argument was made by past Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, who opposed strong oversight of large financial firms, preferring to trust them to make the correct decisions. Clearly, that didn't work either and intervention was needed at that time by courageous politicians like Representative Issa.

We thank you for being receptive to some of our Board members meeting with Rep. Issa when we come to DC to convene with the new NIH Director. When that date with the NIH Director is set I will contact you to determine if the Representative will be available and if not, we look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely yours,

Richard

Dr. Richard Darling, DDS: [Past National Public Citizen of the Year \(NASW\)](#)

President and CEO: [The FAIR Foundation](#), a national organization with thousands of members and supporters whose goal is

to reverse inequities in NIH research funding and to institute [new organ-donor policies](#) to reverse America's organ-donor crisis

Founder: [The FAIR Foundation Liver Disease & Transplant Support Group](#)

Author: [Coma Life](#), an autobiographical memoir of life "within" coma and survival over hepatitis C induced liver cancer, coma, 3

liver transplants, heart attack, diabetes & Muscular Dystrophy (Myasthenia Gravis)

Address: 78629 Bougainvillea Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211 Ph: 760-200-2766

Our Government's Bio-Medical Research Allocations by the National Institutes of Health

Disease	<u>2009 NIH Research \$\$</u>	Deaths Per Disease	\$\$ Per Patient Death	\$\$ Per Patient
COPD *	90 Million	126,128	\$ 714	\$ 7
Hepatitis C	107 Million	12,000	\$ 8,916	\$ 20
Cardiovascular Dis.	2.3 Billion	871,500	\$ 2,714	\$ 29
Hepatitis B	42 Million	5,000	\$ 8,400	\$ 34
Diabetes	1 Billion	74,817	\$13,365	\$ 39
Parkinson's Dis.	186 Million	19,547	\$ 9,516	\$ 124
Alzheimer's Dis.	644 Million	71,696	\$ 8,928	\$ 124
Prostate Cancer	344 Million	27,050	\$ 12,717	\$ 181
HIV/AIDS	2.9 Billion	14,016	\$ 206,906	\$ 2,774
All Cancers Total	5.5 Billion	559,650	\$ 9,888	\$ 3,830
Breast Cancer	716 Million	40,910	\$ 17,501	\$ 3,967
West Nile Virus	39 Million	37	\$1,054,054	\$28,467

The NIH funding for 6000 Orphan (rare) diseases was reported to be \$1.2 billion until 2007. It is now reported to be only \$645 million which equals only \$107,500 for each disease's entire bio-medical research effort.

* COPD is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease