

Hi AAGP Members in Iowa ---

First of all, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the e-mails, etc. that you sent to Senator Harkin and his staff regarding the need for funding an IOM study to determine the multi-disciplinary mental health workforce that will be needed to serve older adults between now and 2030. That was extremely helpful, and we really appreciate it.

Second, I'm contacting you because very shortly Senator Harkin's Subcommittee will craft its Fiscal Year 2008 Health and Human Services (HHS) appropriations bill. There is a possibility that this will occur prior to the end of May -- perhaps as early as next week.

It would be great if you could touch base again (via e-mail or fax) with Senator Harkin and his staff -- Adrienne Hallett -- advising them of your continued interest and support for this initiative.

Your message could be relatively short -- along the lines of the following:

You wanted to follow up on the meeting that the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry had with Adrienne Hallett on the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee a few weeks ago regarding funding for an IOM study to determine the multi-disciplinary mental health workforce that will be needed to provide quality mental health services to older adults for the next three decades. The IOM has advised AAGP that \$1 million would be needed for this study.

IOM is currently undertaking a study on broad health care needs of older adults; however, that study is not addressing mental disorders of older adults -- an issue that should not be overlooked particularly when one considers the demographics of this country.

As Senator Harkin's constituent and a health care provider, I appreciate his commitment to strengthening mental health services for older adults. I believe that it is critical that we determine what the nation's geriatric mental health work force needs will be, and I hope that he will work to secure funding for this very critical IOM report in the Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008.

Here is the contact information:

1) Senator Tom Harkin
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Washington, D.C. 20510
Fax: 202-224-9369

2) Adrienne Hallett
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Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
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Washington, D.C. 20510

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We would be most appreciative if you could help us with this.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide any additional information. Also, it would be very helpful if you could let me know if you receive a response from them.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

Marj Vanderbilt
Director of Government Affairs
AAGP