



National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council
Together by need. United by choice.

National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council
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Dear Senator/Representative,

The undersigned organizations declare their support of the Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act. The Act amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and treatment program for Hepatitis C Virus infection.

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is the most common blood-borne infection in the United States. Once infected, most individuals remain persistently infected, with 70% developing chronic liver disease and its often life-threatening sequelae. Conservatively estimated, nearly 3,000,000 Americans have chronic Hepatitis C today, with 35,000 new infections occurring every year.

Hepatitis C is a national epidemic without financial resources according to a recent report from the National Institutes of Health. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that the death rate from HCV-related liver disease will triple by the year 2010. No other disease is expected to increase its burden as rapidly as Hepatitis C in the coming decade. Disease specific interventions are needed immediately. The Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act directly addresses these critical unmet needs through:

- Education and Training implement a program to heighten awareness and enhance knowledge and understanding of Hepatitis C.
- Medical Management ensure that HCV-positive persons identified through HCV counseling and testing programs have access to medical evaluation and management, including currently recommended antiviral therapy when appropriate.
- Clinical Research Network establish and support a Hepatitis C Clinical Research Network for the purpose of conducting research related to natural history, epidemiology, prevention and treatment.
- Seroprevalence Study ensure that a seroprevalence study is conducted to estimate the current and future impact, nationally and regionally, of HCV.

American Liver Foundation

Frontline Hepatitis

Hep C Advocate Network

Hep C Connection

Hep C Education and Support Network

Hep-C Alert

Hepatitis Research Foundation

Hepatitis C Action & Advocacy Coalition

Hepatitis C Association, Inc.

Hepatitis C Awareness Project

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program

Hepatitis C Global Foundation

Hepatitis C Support Project

Hepatitis Education Project

Hepatitis Magazine

HOPE

Hope4Heppers

LiverHope

Missouri Hepatitis C Alliance

Veterans Aimed Toward Awareness

- Hepatitis C Disease Control promote and support state and local HCV counseling, pharmaceutical treatment, testing and prevention programs.
- Immunization promote and support state and local programs to vaccinate HCV infected persons, or at risk of infection, against Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B.
- Hepatitis C Coordinators support provision of Hepatitis C Coordinators to each state and large metropolitan health department to provide the additional management, networking, and technical expertise needed.
- Underserved and Disproportionately Affected Populations promote expanded support for persons with limited access to health education, testing and health care services and groups that may be disproportionately affected by HCV.

We urge you to make Hepatitis C your leading health priority. We look forward to your support of the Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act being introduced this session.

Sincerely,

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