

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 President Obama signed the economic stimulus bill (H.R. 1) into law. Included in the stimulus are provisions that are designed to improve health care quality, enhance cancer research, and address workforce shortages. Below is an outline of some of the provisions.

- \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health. Of that amount, \$1.3 billion will go to construction, of which \$1 billion for grants or contracts to “construct, renovate or repair existing non-Federal research facilities.” The remaining \$300 million is for shared instrumentation and other capital research equipment. \$8.2 billion will go to research, including \$7.4 billion to be transferred to Institutes and Centers and to the Common Fund to support scientific research. Note: NCI would receive approximately \$1.2 billion (National Coalition for Cancer Research).
- \$1 billion for a Prevention and Wellness Fund. Of that amount, \$300 million will go for immunizations, \$50 million will go to reducing healthcare-associated infections, and \$650 million will go to HHS for evidence-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies. Tobacco control will be able to compete for funds from the \$650 million (Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids).
- \$500 million for nursing and health professions training. Of that amount, \$300 million will be awarded to the National Health Service Corps and the remaining \$200 million will be divided between the Title VII Health Professions Training Programs and the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. The conference report further noted that the funding for Titles VII and VIII should focus on such programs as primary care and dentistry, public health and preventive medicine, loan repayment and scholarships, as well as grants for training program equipment (American Association of Colleges of Nursing).

To learn more about ONS’s health policy priorities or to contact your elected officials, please visit the ONS Legislative Action Center at [www.onslac.org](http://www.onslac.org).

*\*\*Note: ONS does not have a position on the stimulus package.*