

MAKING AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

HIS REQUEST TO MAKE AVAILABLE \$216,922,000 IN PREVIOUSLY
APPROPRIATED CONTINGENT FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107



DECEMBER 17, 1998.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and
ordered to be printed

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, October 28, 1998.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: In accordance with provisions of Public Law 105-277, the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, I hereby request the following:

Department of Health and Human Services

- Office of the Secretary, Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund: \$216,922,000.

These funds will help to address HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in minority communities. In addition, the funding made available will provide HHS with resources to prepare for managing the medical and public health consequences of a chemical-biological weapons incident. Finally, these funds will help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its polio eradication and measles elimination efforts.

I hereby designate this request as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

Enclosure.

[Estimate No. 19, 105th Cong., 2d Sess.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,
Washington, DC, October 28, 1998.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Submitted for your consideration is a request to make available \$216,922,000 in previously appropriated contingent emergency funds for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Public Law 105-277, the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, provided a total of \$216.9 million to the Office of the Secretary, HHS, contingent upon the President submitting a budget request to the Congress and designating the entire amount as an emergency requirement.

I recommend that you designate the entire \$216,922,000, as listed on the enclosure, as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. No further congressional action will be required.

These funds will provide \$50 million to the Secretary of HHS to address the HIV/AIDS crisis facing the African-American community and other racial and ethnic minority communities due to the changing demographics of the disease.

In addition, the requested release of contingent emergency funds will provide HHS with \$139 million to prepare for and manage the response to the medical and public health consequences of a chemical-biological weapons incident, as you requested. The \$139 million provided will be distributed as follows:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will use \$127 million to establish a civilian pharmaceutical stockpile and to improve public health surveillance, communications, epidemiologic capabilities, and laboratory capacity to respond to a chemical-biological weapons incident.

- HHS' Office of Emergency Preparedness will use \$7 million to enhance medical response systems for a chemical-biological weapons incident, including funds to increase the number of local first responder teams.

- The remaining \$5 million is for two one-time projects and a study initiated by Congress. We are concerned that such earmarking within an emergency appropriation—heretofore not a common practice—could set an undesirable precedent. We are particularly concerned that the legislation mandates that if the AIDS and chemical-biological weapons funds are designated as an emergency that the special projects must also be designated as an emergency.

Finally, this request includes an additional \$28 million that Congress provided to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for global polio eradication and measles elimination efforts.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Therefore, I join the Secretary of Health and Human Services in recommending that you make the requested funds available by signing the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

JACOB J. LEW, *Director.*

Enclosure.

EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS: AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PRESIDENT

Department of Health and Human Services:

Office of the Secretary: Public Health and Social Services	
Emergency Fund	\$216,922,000

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These funds will help to address HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in minority communities. In addition, the funding made available will provide HHS with resources to prepare for managing the medical and public health consequences of a chemical-biological weapons incident. Finally, these funds will help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its polio eradication and measles elimination efforts.

