



**Legislative Update**  
**May 11, 2007**

*Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!*

## **House Budget Given Final Approval**

The House passed its version of the budget at 12:05 a.m. Friday morning after many hours of debate and consideration of over 20 amendments. The House budget passed third reading 67-50.

The final version of the House budget includes several amendments made in the House Appropriations Committee yesterday. During that meeting, Rep. Verla Insko (D-Orange) offered an amendment to restore funds to the DHHS budget that had previously been taken from the Department's lapsed salaries. The amendment to restore these funds to DHHS went toward funding several programs of interest to the Alliance, including Healthy Carolinians and the Tobacco Quitline. The amendment funded these programs with reserve funding in DHHS. The result of this amendment was that funding for both Healthy Carolinians and the Tobacco Quitline went from recurring to *nonrecurring* funding (each were funded at the previous amount of \$1 million). The amendment was approved by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote. The Alliance contacted several key legislators in an attempt to return the funding to recurring funds during floor debate; however, no amendments were offered.

The final House budget includes funding for the following Alliance priorities:

- Healthy Carolinians is funded at \$1 million in *non-recurring* funding for FY 07-08 and FY 08-09;
- The Child Nutrition Program is funded at \$7.5 million in nonrecurring funding for FY 07-08;

Funds for the Statewide Health Promotion program and funds for Eat Smart Move More were *not* included in the House budget.

The budget now goes to the Senate for consideration. Once in the Senate, the budget process begins again. Senate Appropriations Subcommittees will create their budgets for the full Senate Appropriations Committee's consideration. The Appropriations Committee's budget will then go to the Senate floor for the full Senate's consideration. Once the Senate approves its budget, a conference committee made up of members of both the House and Senate will meet jointly to agree upon a final budget. The budget then goes to the Governor for his signature. Legislators hope to have all of this done around the time that the state's fiscal year ends on June 30.

The Alliance will now turn its attention to the Senate side to promote and educate Senate Appropriations Committee members about Alliance-supported budget items. Please contact Elizabeth Outten, the Alliance Physical Activity and Nutrition Policy Manager, at 919-602-6648 if you have questions.

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**For additional information about physical activity and nutrition issues,  
secondhand smoke issues or NC's cigarette tax,  
access the Alliance website at [www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org)  
for talking points and other resources.**

Call 919-463-8328 or e-mail [ncalliance@heart.org](mailto:ncalliance@heart.org) for more information