Hepatitis B Foundation
Baruch S. Blumberg Institute

Hep B United

AAPCHO

Addressing the Hepatitis B Epidemic:
Congressional Action Needed - Please join the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus

Up to 2.2 million people in the United States and more than 240 million people worldwide are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), a disease that is silent and largely undiagnosed. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and recent immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa, are disproportionately impacted by hepatitis B. Asian Americans comprise about 5% of the population, but account for over 50% of chronic HBV cases in the U.S. It is estimated that 1 in 10 Asian Americans live with chronic HBV infection, most of whom do not know they are infected, and 25% will die prematurely from liver failure or liver cancer -- which is why hepatitis B is a silent epidemic.

Hepatitis B is the world's most common serious liver infection. HBV is the cause of up to 60% of primary liver cancer, which is the 2nd leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. In the U.S., the incidence of primary liver cancer is increasing while most other cancer rates decline or stabilize. According to the CDC

HBV is the deadliest vaccine-preventable disease in the world.

Hepatitis B is entirely preventable and the HBV vaccine was designated as the 1st "anti-cancer vaccine" by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – preventing hepatitis B will prevent primary liver cancer.

Today, we have the tools to eliminate hepatitis B. Now we need more attention and funding to improve HBV testing, vaccination and treatment to ensure all Americans enjoy long, healthy lives.

What You Can Do: Join the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus

Now is time for Congress to prioritize the silent, but deadly hepatitis B epidemic.
The *Congressional Hepatitis Caucus* serves as a group of Members dedicated to chronic viral hepatitis issues and educating other members on this important public health priority.

To learn more or to join the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus, please contact Helen.Beaudreau@mail.house.gov from Congressman Mike Honda's office.

Hepatitis B Foundation – The nation's only national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure for hepatitis B and improving the lives of those affected worldwide through research, education and patient advocacy. Visit www.hepb.org.

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) - A national association of 35 community health organizations, including 29 Federally Qualified Health Centers dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration, and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Visit www.aapcho.org.

Hep B United – A national coalition established and co-chaired by the Hepatitis B Foundation and AAPCHO to support local community coalition efforts across the U.S. to increase hepatitis B awareness, screening, vaccination and linkage to care with the goal of elimination. Visit www.hepbunited.org.