

**FY 2010 Senate Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities
Sign on Letter:
Signed by 29 Senators (27 Democrats, 1 Republican, 1
Independent)**

1. Akaka, Daniel
2. Baucus, Max
3. Begich, Mark
4. Brown, Sherrod
5. Burris, Roland
6. Casey, Robert
7. Cantwell, Maria,
8. Cardin, Benjamin
9. Conrad, Kent
10. Dodd, Christopher
11. Feingold, Russ
12. Gillibrand, Kirsten
13. Grassley, Charles
14. Kennedy, Ted
15. Kerry, John
16. Klobuchar, Amy
17. Kohl, Herbert
18. Lautenberg, Frank
19. Leahy, Patrick
20. Levin, Carl
21. Lieberman, Joe
22. Lincoln, Blanche
23. Menendez, Robert
24. Rockefeller, John
25. Sanders, Bernard
26. Schumer, Charles
27. Stabenow, Debbie
28. Udall, Tom
29. Wyden, Ron

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
131 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Acting Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
131 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

We strongly support a funding level of \$346.5 million for the State Grants portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) program, which is the amount necessary for this critical program to effectively serve all of America's youth with vital drug and violence prevention programming. This amount reflects the FY 2007 enacted level.

As you are aware, SDFSC is the federal government's primary initiative to prevent drug use in and around schools. This long-standing program, authorized in Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, is currently used by 97 percent of the nation's school districts and serves more than 37 million youth per year.

Drug prevention is a critical component to ensuring the academic success of our youth. If the challenges in students' learning environments, particularly substance use, are not addressed, our youth will not be able to maximize their academic potential. Prevention efforts are showing concrete results. Now is the time to capitalize on these results and make sure that substance use and abuse rates continue to decline by fully funding the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program. This is especially true given that historically, when funding for and attention to drug prevention wanes — as it did in the mid- to late 1990s — youth drug use surges. Every new cohort of youth must have the benefit of preventative efforts to ensure that alcohol and drug use rates continue to decline.

For most children, schools serve as one of the only sources of information about the harms of drug use. The costs associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse add 10 percent—or \$41 billion—to the already strained budgets of schools across the nation and have a devastating impact on the educational performance of students. We ask that you support the FY 2007 enacted level of \$346.5 million for the State Grants portion of the SDFSC program for FY 2010.

Thank you for considering our views and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator



CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator

Richard M Kennedy

Bob Anderson

Shirley Brown

Chas Sch

Robert Mering

Arthur Peterson

Patrick Leahy

My Bensus

Carol Lewis

John F. King

Jay Robinson

Kent Leland

Herb Kohl

Jim Hill

Janet K. Laska

Steve Ferguson

Mark Wynn

Blaire L. Linsch

Mimi Cohen Frank R. Lauferberg

Ben Cook

Amy Klobuchar

Van Cull

Paul Beahm

Bob Carey, Jr.

Kirsten E. Hillibrand

Robert W. Burns

**State Grants Portion of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program:
Successes Throughout the Country**

- Alabama – Reported a 27.4% decrease in the number of 10th grade students reporting past 30 day use of alcohol, from 26.6% in 2005 to 19.3% in 2006.
- Alaska - Reported a 36.6% decrease in the percentage of 9-12th grade students reporting past 30 day marijuana use, from 27.9% in 1995 to 17.7% in 2007.
- Arizona – Reported a 23.3% decrease in the lifetime use of marijuana among 8th graders from 2002 to 2004. Among 10th and 12th grades lifetime marijuana use went down by 12% and 10% respectively.
- California - Reported a 19.3% decrease in past 30 day use of marijuana among 11th graders, from 23.8% in 2000 to 19.2% in 2006.
- Delaware - Reported a 20% decrease in the number of 11th grade students reporting past 30 day use of marijuana, from 27.5% in 2001 to 22.0% in 2007.
- Florida – Reported a 25.8% decrease in the number of students in grades 6-12 reporting past 30 day use of any illicit drug (other than marijuana), from 9.3% in 1999 to 6.9% in 2007.
- Georgia – Reported a decrease of 23.4% in past 30 day binge drinking among high school students, from 24.8% in 1993 to 19.0% in 2007.
- Hawaii – Reported that the perception of harm associated with the "occasional use of inhalants" among 12th graders increased at a rate of 58% from 48.5% in 1998 to 76.8% in 2002.
- Illinois – Reported an 18.4% decrease in the number of 10th graders reporting lifetime use of marijuana, down from 40.2% in 2000 to 32.8% in 2006.
- Indiana – Reported a decrease of 29.2% in past 30 day marijuana use among 9th graders, from 16.1% in 2001 to 11.4% in 2006.
- Iowa – Reported a 23.1% decrease in the number of Iowa students who had at least one drink in the last 30 days, from 26% in 1999 to 20% in 2005.
- Kansas – Reported a 32.0% decrease in past 30 day use of marijuana among 10th graders, from 19.4% in 1999 to 13.2% in 2006.
- Kentucky – Reported a 26.6% decrease in the number of high school students reporting past 30 day marijuana use, down from 28.6% in 1997 to 21.1% in 2003.
- Maine – Reported a 19.6% decrease in the number of 10th grade students reporting lifetime marijuana use, down from 43.3% in 2000 to 34.8% in 2006.
- Maryland – Reported a 30.4% decrease in past 30 day marijuana use among 10th graders, down from 22.4% in 1996 to 15.6% in 2004.

- Massachusetts – Reported an 18.3% decrease in the number of students in grades nine through 12 who reported lifetime marijuana use, down from 50.4% in 2001 to 41.2% in 2007.
- Michigan – Reported a 33.3% decrease in the number of students in grades 9-12 reporting past 30 day marijuana use, from 28.2% in 1997 to 18.8% in 2005.
- Minnesota – Reported a 41.4% decrease in the number of 9th grade students reporting past year use of alcohol, from 63.8% in 1992 to 37.4% in 2007.
- Mississippi – Reported a 58.2% decrease in the number of 6th grade students reporting past 30 day use of liquor, from 7.9% in 2002 to 3.3% in 2006.
- Montana – Reported a 65.9% decrease in lifetime methamphetamine use among 9th -12th grade students, down from 13.5% in 1995 to 4.6% in 2007.
- Nevada – Reported a 46.2% decrease in lifetime use of methamphetamine among 9th - 12th grade students from 11.7 in 2005 to 6.3 in 2007.
- New Hampshire – Reported an increase of 9.7% in the perception of harm associated with using marijuana among 11th graders, from 62.6% in 2003 to 68.7% in 2005.
- New Jersey – Reported a 36.8% decrease in the number of 9th – 12th grade students reporting past 30 day use of alcohol, down from 57.0% in 2002 to 36.0% in 2005.
- New Mexico – Reported that the number of high school students reporting past 30 day use of methamphetamines decreased at a rate of 37%, from 7.3% in 2003 to 4.6% in 2005.
- New York – Reported a 30.3% decrease in the number of high school students reporting past 30 day marijuana use, down from 26.7% in 2002 to 18.6% in 2007.
- North Carolina – Reported a 29.9% decrease in the number of students that had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before the age of 13 from 30.4 % in 1993 to 21.3% in 2005.
- North Dakota – Reported a 30.8% decrease in the number of 7th and 8th grade students who drank alcohol before age eleven, down from 14.3% in 2003 to 9.9% in 2007.
- Ohio - Reported that the percentage of youth in grades six through eight who reported using illegal drugs at least once during the past year decreased by 21%, from 14.9% in 1998-99 school year to 11.7% in 2002.
- Oklahoma – Reported that the number of 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th graders who have used marijuana in the past 30 days decreased at a rate of 18.8%, from 9.6% in 2004 to 7.8% in 2006.
- Oregon – Reported a 20.5% decrease in the number of eleventh grade students reporting past 30 day use of marijuana, from 23.4% in 2003 to 18.6% in 2007.

- Pennsylvania – The number of 10th grade students reporting past 30 day use of marijuana decreased at a rate of 29.4%, from 17.0% in 2001 to 12.0% in 2005.
- South Dakota – Reported that the number of students in grades 9-12 reporting that they had 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, within a couple of hours, on 1 or more of the past 30 days decreased at a rate of 24.8%, from 45.2% in 1997 to 34% in 2005.
- Utah – Reported that the number of 7th through 12th graders who reported using alcohol in the last 30 days decreased at a rate of 51.4%, from 24.5% in 1984 to 11.9% in 2005.
- Vermont – Reported a 50.0% decrease in past 30 day use of meth among 11th graders, down from 8.0% in 2003 to 4.0% in 2007.
- Virginia – Reported a 35.1% decrease in the number of 12th graders who reported smoking cigarettes in the last 30 days from 37% in 2000 to 24% in 2005.
- Washington – Reported that among 8th graders, past 30 day use of marijuana decreased at a rate of 23.3%, from 12% in 2000 to 9.2% in 2004.
- Wisconsin – Reported a 35.1% decrease in the number of 9th -12th grade students reporting drinking alcohol before the age of 13, down from 37.0% in 1993 to 24.0% in 2007.