



For Immediate Release
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Alliance for a Stronger FDA Asks Congress for \$200 Million More Than President's FY 15 Request

Alliance's "Ask" for FDA Appropriations is \$2.784 Billion

Silver Spring, MD, March 13, 2014 –The Alliance for a Stronger FDA today announced it will be asking Congress to provide FDA with an appropriation of \$2.784 billion for FY 15. This is \$200 million more than the amount requested in the President's budget proposal and is intended to support both food safety and medical products programs. The Alliance request is a \$223 million increase over FY 14 appropriated funding.

The Alliance, whose almost 200 members represent a cross-section of FDA stakeholders, emphasized that "the President's request is not enough for FDA to meet its food safety and medical product responsibilities; substantial increases are needed to support FDA's critical mission."

"The President's FY 15 budget request will leave FDA programs with more responsibility and less money than they had in FY 14," said Kasey K. Thompson, Pharm.D., M.S., President of the Alliance and Vice President, Office of Policy, Planning and Communications at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

He continued: "This budget proposal would actually weaken the FDA in certain areas, which we think the American people will regard as unacceptable. If the FDA does not have the resources to fulfill its mission, there is no other Federal, state or private agency that provides a fallback."

Under the President's FY 15 request:

- FDA's food safety activities would gain \$23 million in appropriated funding, but have about \$15 million less from existing (current law) user fees than in FY 14.
- FDA's medical products programs would receive no net increase in appropriations. Existing user fees would increase by \$57 million, although such monies are dedicated to specific purposes.

FDA proposes \$24 million more for food safety and \$25 million for pharmaceutical compounding in FY 15, neither of which can be fully funded without undercutting the existing base of activities.

"Alliance members remain committed to assuring that FDA is adequately funded." said Jeff Allen, PhD, Vice President of the Alliance and Executive Director of the Friends of Cancer Research (FOCR). "It is a national priority for FDA to have the resources it needs to meet the challenges of a changing global economy, product innovation, food safety, and medical advances."

Allen continued: "In addition to implementing new laws, the agency has broadened responsibilities for the safety of imports--both food and medical products--and must have the resources necessary to respond to the increasing scientific complexity in the work it does."

The Alliance's nearly 200 members are comprised of consumer, patient, professional and research groups, companies, trade associations, and individuals who support increased appropriated funding for FDA. The Alliance is the only multi-stakeholder group that advocates for increasing resources at FDA to match the agency's responsibilities. More information about the Alliance can be found at www.StrengthenFDA.org.