



March 12, 2010

Bipartisan Capitol Hill Media Event:

***Health Experts, Lawmakers to Urge Federal Government
To Fix the Funding Failure for Chronic Viral Hepatitis:***

**NVHR Chair Lorren Sandt; Representatives Hank Johnson, Mike Honda,
Anh ‘Joseph’ Cao and Bill Cassidy; and Dr. Andrew Muir
To Participate in Capitol Hill Media Briefing**

*Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Noon – 1 p.m.
2456 Rayburn House Office Building*

Washington, DC—Regrettably, the federal government is failing more than 5 million Americans who are estimated to be infected with chronic viral hepatitis B or C. Because of inadequate federal funding for screening and prevention programs, most Americans don’t know they are infected and lose precious time to help arrest the disease’s progression to cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure.

Earlier this year, the Institute of Medicine released a landmark report blasting the federal government for its failure to respond to the chronic viral hepatitis crisis. While a bipartisan coalition has come together in Congress to address this crisis, the Administration’s meager response in its 2011 budget proposal means that more people will needlessly suffer in the coming year, particularly minority populations.

On Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. in Room 2456 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, four Members of Congress, and an expert physician from Duke University School of Medicine will come together to brief the news media on the need for Washington to act on HR 3974 – which would provide additional federal funding for state-based screening, education, and prevention efforts – and fix the federal funding crisis for 5 million individuals afflicted with chronic viral hepatitis once and for all.

WHO: **Ms. Lorren Sandt**, Chair, National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Georgia who recently completed treatment for hepatitis C
Rep. Mike Honda, D-California and lead sponsor of HR 3974, “The Viral Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Control and Prevention Act,”
Rep. Anh “Joseph” Cao, R-Louisiana, Co-sponsor of HR 3974
Rep. Bill Cassidy, M.D., R-Louisiana, Co-sponsor of HR 3974 and a Hepatologist
Andrew J. Muir, MD MHS, Clinical Director of Hepatology, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine

WHAT: **Fixing the Federal Government’s Funding Failure on Chronic Viral Hepatitis**

WHEN: 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Tuesday, March 16, 2010

WHERE: 2456 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

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