

## 美國聯邦參議員爭取新的小兒麻痺症經費

美金一億參仟捌佰肆拾萬元

### U.S. senator calls for \$138.4 million in new funding for polio

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A child receives the polio vaccine during a polio immunization campaign. Photo by Jean-Marc Giboux\*.

在小兒麻痺等疾病運動期間一位孩童接受小兒麻痺等疾病疫苗。攝影：Giboux

美國聯邦參議員伊莉莎白·杜爾在寫給有影響力的同事們的信件中促使同事支持總數美金一億參仟捌佰肆拾萬在2006會計年度的政府預算以繼續根除小兒麻痺症的活動。

杜爾參議員希望美國政府能撥款 3,200 萬美元之經費以協助美國國際開發援助總署(USAID)根除小兒麻痺症之努力，這項預算包含美國國內、外國以及相關計劃法案。同時她又要求政府幫助勞工、保健、人道服務及教育方面的費用，其中包含美金壹億陸佰肆拾萬元給疾病防治中心(CDC)以根絕小兒麻痺症。

在她7月11日寫給同事的信中說“全世界根除小兒麻痺症的工作正在進行中，而美國政府的支援絕對是必要的。自1988以來已有20億的兒童已服用小兒麻痺口服疫苗。美國政府繼續的經援將有助疾病防治中心(CDC)繼續支援熱切的免疫活動以至於非洲及亞洲地區的以改善根除小兒麻痺免疫之品質及機會。

這來自北卡的杜爾參議員在她給外交交易撥款小組委員會主席麥肯內及其委員李傑(Leathy)及勞工、保健、人道服務及教育撥款小組委員會主席史百特(Specter)及委員哈金(Hakin)的信時要求他們儘量幫忙通過該預算。

前RI社長雷斯益(James Lacy)經常向美國國會議員簡報有關全球根除小兒麻痺症之進度。他非常稱讚杜爾參議員對根除小兒麻痺症之支持。他並表示支援根除小兒麻痺症計劃新的經費將有助於美國疾病防治中心(CDC)及美國援外開發總署(USAID)對根除全世界小兒麻痺症運動有絕對的重要性，因為這已經到了實現一個無小兒麻痺世界的最後階段。

“參議員杜爾一直非常關懷著小兒麻痺症的防治工作，”他說。“我想她的這封信是個非常棒的主意。我們需要所有我們能爭取到的協助，而杜爾，正如她前任參議員的先生般，自願為小兒麻痺活動資助更多的經費”前RI社長雷斯益談到已退休的前參議員杜爾亦即是現任參議員伊麗沙白杜爾的先生，在最初爭取支持防治小兒麻痺等疾病運動上扮演著一種領導的角色。國際扶輪頒贈根除小兒麻痺等疾病優異獎以表彰杜爾前參議員(Bob Dole)他對該運動的支持。

In letters to influential colleagues, United States Senator Elizabeth Dole is urging support for budgetary requests totaling \$138.4 million in continued government funding for polio eradication activities during the 2006 fiscal year.

Dole would like to see approval of \$32 million in funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development's polio eradication efforts, included in the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. She also is calling for support of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, which includes \$106.4 million in polio eradication funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's childhood immunization program.

"Polio eradication efforts around the world are clearly working, and U.S. support has been critical," said Dole in the 11 July letters. "Since the global initiative began in 1988, more than two billion children around the world have received the oral polio vaccine. Funding will allow USAID and the CDC to continue to support intense immunization activities so that regions such as Africa and Asia can improve the quality and opportunity of polio immunizations."

The senator from North Carolina addressed the letters to Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mitch McConnell and ranking member Patrick Leahy as well as Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Arlen Specter and ranking member Tom Harkin.

Past RI President James Lacy, who periodically briefs U.S. legislators on progress in global polio eradication efforts, praised Dole's advocacy for polio. He said that new funding for polio-related programs at the CDC and USAID would be critically important for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is in the final stages of fulfilling the goal of a polio-free world.

"Sen. Dole has always been interested in polio eradication," he said. "I think the letter was a wonderful idea from her. We need all the help we can get, and Dole, like her husband before her, has volunteered to support more funding for polio activities." Lacy said that retired Sen. Bob Dole, the husband of Elizabeth Dole, played a leading role in securing initial U.S. funding for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Rotary International recognized Bob Dole's support for the initiative with the Polio Eradication Champion Award.