



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 28, 2006

**H.R. 5438
Public Health and Medical Emergency Coordination Act of 2006**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on May 24, 2006*

H.R. 5438 would amend the Public Health Service Act and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to transfer the functions of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) from the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The NDMS, currently a section of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, deploys teams of health care professionals and medical supplies to disaster areas to provide medical care and veterinary and mortuary services. The NDMS is funded through discretionary appropriations, which totalled \$34 million in fiscal year 2006. The bill also would establish HHS as the primary agency for coordinating public health and medical response from the federal government to state, local, and tribal governments in the event of a public health emergency.

CBO estimates that this implementing H.R. 5438 would have no significant budgetary effect, and would not affect revenues or direct spending. H.R. 5438 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeanne De Sa. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.