

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Children and Families (HELP)
428 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and
Chairmen Harkin, Baucus, Dodd, Waxman, Rangel and Miller:

The undersigned organizations would like to thank you for your leadership in including strong prevention and public health provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Enactment of these provisions would help ensure that health reform strengthens our public health infrastructure and reorients our health system towards prevention and preparedness. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude and strong support for the bills' establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism for prevention and public health through a Prevention and Public Health Fund and a Community Health Center Fund (Senate bill); and a Public Health Investment Fund (House bill).

Public Health Funding Level

As you conference the Senate and House bills, we urge you to include the highest possible funding level for prevention and public health. The Senate-passed bill provides a combined \$25 billion for its Prevention and Public Health Fund and Community Health Center Fund, and the House-passed bill includes a total of \$33.9 billion for its Public Health Investment Fund. We strongly urge inclusion of no less than the House-passed amount in the final bill.

As you know, high rates of chronic disease are one of the biggest drivers of health care costs. In order to truly realign our priorities so that we can focus on health and wellness, instead of just disease treatment, we need a sustained and ongoing investment in prevention and public health, over and above current funding levels.

Public Health Fund Structure

We also urge you to ensure that the final bill provides sustained investments of guaranteed funds for prevention and public health. Further, the bill should ensure that new funding supplement, not supplant, our current investment in prevention and public health.

We now have the opportunity to make a major course correction in the way our country deals with promoting public health. We would like to thank you again for capitalizing on this opportunity through the inclusion of dedicated funding for prevention, wellness, and public health and to express our enthusiastic support for enactment of the highest level of funding possible.

Sincerely,

1. Advocates for Better Children's Diets
2. All Saints Home Care And Referral Services (CA)
3. American Academy of Pediatrics
4. American Academy of Physician Assistants
5. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
6. American Association for Health Education
7. American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
8. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
9. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
10. American College of Clinical Pharmacy
11. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
12. American College of Preventive Medicine

13. American Diabetes Association
14. American Heart Association
15. American Lung Association
16. American Public Health Association
17. American Thoracic Society
18. Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
19. Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
20. Arthritis Foundation
21. Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.
22. Association for Utah Community Health
23. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
24. Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
25. Association of Public Health Laboratories
26. Association of Schools of Public Health
27. Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
28. Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
29. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
30. Beach Cities Health District (CA)
31. Bi-State Primary Care Association
32. Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.
33. Bryan County Health Department (GA)
34. California Center for Public Health Advocacy
35. California Primary Care Association
36. Camden County Health Department (GA)
37. Campaign for Public Health
38. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
39. Center for Adolescent Health & the Law
40. Center for Science in the Public Interest
41. CEO Services (NY)
42. Chatham County Health Department (GA)
43. Children's Dental Health Project
44. Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland
45. Christian County Health Department (KY)
46. CityMatCH
47. Colorado Community Health Network
48. Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
49. CommonHealth ACTION
50. Community Action Partnership
51. Community Catalyst
52. Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States
53. Community Health Care Association of New York State
54. Community Health Centers of Arkansas, *Arkansas Primary Care Association*
55. Community Health Councils

56. Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
57. Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
58. County Health Executives Association of California
59. Defeat Diabetes Foundation
60. Delaware Center for Health Promotion
61. Effingham County Health Department (GA)
62. Faces & Voices of Recovery
63. FamilyCook Productions
64. Family Voices
65. Georgia Public Health Association
66. Glynn County Health Department (GA)
67. Hawai'i Primary Care Association
68. Health Education Network of Delaware
69. Health Justice Network
70. Health Officers Association of California
71. Health Resources in Action, Inc.
72. Hepatitis B Foundation
73. Hepatitis Foundation International
74. Home Safety Council
75. Huron County Health Department (MI)
76. Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
77. Illinois Primary Health Care Association
78. Indiana Association of Public Health Physicians and Local Health Departments Organization, Inc
79. Infectious Diseases Society of America
80. Institute for Public Health Innovation
81. International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association
82. Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
83. Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
84. Kentucky Health Departments Association
85. Kentucky Public Health Association
86. KHMER HEALTH ADVOCATES, Inc
87. La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
88. Liberty County Health Department (GA)
89. Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
90. Long County Health Department (GA)
91. Louisiana Primary Care Association
92. Louisiana Public Health Institute
93. Maine Primary Care Association
94. March of Dimes Foundation
95. Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
96. McIntosh County Health Department (GA)
97. Mental Health America
98. Michigan Primary Care Association
99. Minnesota Association of Community Health Center
100. Mississippi Primary Health Care Association

101. Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
102. Missouri Primary Care Association
103. Monroe County Public Health Department (MI)
104. National Alliance of Multi-ethnic Behavioral Health Associations
105. National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
106. National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
107. National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
108. National Association for Sport and Physical Education
109. National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
110. National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.
111. National Association of County and City Health Officials
112. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
113. National Athletic Trainers' Association
114. National Center for Healthy Housing
115. National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
116. National Coalition of STD Directors
117. National Council of Asian and Pacific Islander Physicians
118. National Environmental Health Association
119. National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
120. National Health Equity Coalition
121. National Network of Public Health Institutes
122. National Nursing Network Organization
123. National Recreation and Park Association
124. National WIC Association
125. Nebraska State Association of County & City Health Officials
126. Nemours
127. New Jersey Association of County Health Officers
128. New Jersey Health Officers Association
129. New Jersey Primary Care Association
130. New Mexico Primary Care Association
131. New York Academy of Medicine
132. New York State Association of County Health Officials
133. North American Quitline Consortium
134. North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
135. North Carolina Community Health Center Association
136. Novo Nordisk
137. OCA: Embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans
138. Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
139. Oregon Primary Care Association
140. Out of Many, One
141. Partnership for Prevention
142. Physician Assistant Education Association
143. PolicyLink
144. Prevention Institute
145. Public Health Foundation

146. Public Health Institute
147. Public Health-Seattle & King County
148. Public Health Solutions
149. Society for Adolescent Medicine
150. Society for Public Health Education
151. South Asian Americans Leading Together
152. South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
153. Special Services for Groups, Inc. - ALAS para tu Salud
154. Special Services for Groups, Inc. - PALS for Health
155. State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
156. Texas Association of Local Health Officials
157. The AIDS Institute
158. Thurston County Board of Health (WA)
159. Trust for America's Health
160. Tuscola County Health Department (MI)
161. United Fresh Produce Association
162. United Way Worldwide
163. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
164. Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials
165. Washington Health Foundation- Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign
166. Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
167. Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
168. YMCA of the USA