

June 16, 2011

We, the 69 undersigned organizations, join in commending the National Prevention Council for the release of *The National Prevention Strategy: America's Plan for Better Health and Wellness*. We share the Strategy's vision of "improving the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities by moving the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness," and we support the Strategy's overarching goal to "increase the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life."

Bringing 17 federal agencies together for the first time to prioritize prevention policies and programs can improve the health and quality of life for all Americans keeping us healthy in the first place, rather than treating people only after they become sick. Every part of our society, from transportation and housing to labor and defense can play an active role in promoting health for individuals, families and communities. We recognize the importance of advancing the NPS Strategic Directions including the creation of healthy and safe community environments, linking clinical and community preventive services, empowering people, and eliminating health disparities to ensure that all can share in the benefits of good health.

The American people are ready for this change, and support this goal. We know that preventing disease keeps our families healthy so that children can attend school ready to learn, adults can be more productive at work, seniors can retain independence. Research shows that the public overwhelmingly agrees that the prevention of illness has been neglected in our health care system and now must receive top priority. Prevention can lower healthcare costs, including those of employers.

Prevention is an investment in the future health of America. This new approach can have a positive impact on everyone's health, young and old. It is up to each individual to keep themselves and their families healthy, but, when implemented, the NPS will help support Americans in creating the opportunities to be as healthy as they can be.

The commitment to prevention reflected in this Strategy will help control health care costs and grow our economy; improve worker productivity; reduce health disparities among underserved populations; and save untold lives and suffering.

We all stand ready to work with the Surgeon General and the National Prevention Council to assure effective implementation of the National Prevention Strategy.

Sincerely,

AARP
A World Fit For Kids!
ADAPTE International

Advocates for Better Children's Diets
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Association for Health Education
American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Occupational Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Sports Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Lung Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Public Health Association
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Boston Public Health Commission
Building Healthier America
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program
Community Action Partnership
Defeat Diabetes Foundation
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Exercise Is Medicine Global Health Initiative
Fighting Addiction Through Education
Healthcare Leadership Council
IDEA Health & Fitness Association
Institute for Wisconsin's Health, Inc.
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health
International Association for Worksite Health Promotion
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association
Kentucky Voices for Health
Massachusetts Healthy Communities System
MEND Foundation
Mental Health America
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity

National Coalition on Health Care
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Recreation and Park Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
New York Academy of Medicine
Papa Ola Lokahi
Partnership for Prevention
Prevent Blindness America
Projectwellbeing
Public Health Institute
Public Health Law & Policy
Regional Center for Healthy Communities (Metrowest)
Safe States Alliance
South Carolina Public Health Institute
Trust for America's Health
Washington State Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition
Western Massachusetts Center for Healthy Communities