



SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

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Please call your Senators NOW and help protect our Prevention and Public Health Fund by urging them to vote NO on the prevention fund offset within the Johanns amendment!

Talking Points:

- Oppose the attempt to use the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Fund) from the Affordable Care Act (health reform) as an offset for an amendment to the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act*, offered by Senator Johanns. Prevention and public health MUST be a priority!
- The Prevention and Public Health Fund created a dedicated funding stream for public health and prevention that is essential to address emerging health threats and to begin to control America's chronic disease rates.
- Protecting this investing in prevention gives all Americans the opportunity to lead healthier lives and ensures our workforce is strong and healthy enough to compete with the rest of the world. The Fund would lower disease rates, improve quality of life, and help reduce health care costs for millions of Americans.
- Right now, 75% of all healthcare costs are spent on the treatment of chronic diseases, many of which could have been prevented, and obesity alone is estimated to cost us \$147 billion per year. Chronic diseases cost the U.S. an additional \$1 trillion each year in lost productivity.
- The Fund would strategically support disease prevention, public health, the health workforce, and research that would directly improve the health of Americans while reducing health care costs.
- The Fund would help close gaps in health disparities by improving access to culturally and linguistically relevant primary prevention health services, health literacy education, and community-based outreach.
- The Fund would help finance the delivery of community-based prevention and wellness services grants. Research has shown that effective community level prevention activities focusing on nutrition, physical activity and smoking cessation can reduce chronic disease rates and have a significant return on investment.
- The Fund could also support core public health infrastructure to help state, local and tribal health departments meet their growing responsibilities. We rely on health departments to provide immunizations, protect our food and water supply, conduct surveillance, detect and monitor emerging infectious diseases, help prevent disease, and prepare for and respond to natural disasters, acts of bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.
- Prevention can be cost-effective and save lives. A report from Trust for America's Health entitled *Prevention for a Healthier America* concluded that an investment of \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within 5 years. This is a return of \$5.60 for every \$1.
- Please protect the health of America by opposing any efforts to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund to pay for other programs!