



# SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

*Global Leadership for Health Education & Health Promotion*

June 17, 2015

Hon. John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
House of Representatives  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

It has come to our attention that the House of Representatives will be considering H.R. 1190, the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015, which includes an amendment to offset the cost of the bill by rescinding \$8.85 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. **The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) strongly opposes any effort to rescind funds from the Prevention Fund.**

SOPHE is a 501 (c)(3) professional organization founded in 1950 to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion. SOPHE contributes to the health of all people and the elimination of health disparities through advances in health education theory and research; excellence in professional preparation and practice; and advocacy for public policies conducive to health. SOPHE is the only independent professional organization devoted exclusively to health education and health promotion. Collectively, SOPHE's 4,000 national and chapter members are employed in universities, medical/health care settings, businesses, voluntary health agencies, international organizations, and all branches of federal/state/local government.

Working on the front lines to keep children as well as seniors healthy, SOPHE members have seen firsthand critical role of the Prevention Fund, which is the single largest investment in our nation's health. High quality preventive care helps Americans stay healthy, avoid or delay onset of disease, lead productive working lives and reduce health care costs. Quality, affordable medical care and community prevention must work hand-in-hand. Prevention has a proven return on investment: Every \$1 spent on prevention saves \$5.60 in health spending; every \$1 spent on childhood vaccines saves \$16.50 in future health care costs. Some 75% of all US health care costs relate to preventable chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes, yet only 3 cents of every dollar is spent on prevention. Prevention activities have been overwhelmingly successful at addressing the costly problem of American's health illiteracy, preventing chronic conditions in elderly and vulnerable populations, and bending the cost curve in the American health care system.

**We urge you to vote no on H.R. 1190 and any other legislation that would rescind funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.** Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact Dr. Cicily Hampton at ([champton@sophe.org](mailto:champton@sophe.org)) or 202-408-9804 with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Elaine Auld, MPH, MCHES  
Chief Executive Officer