

August 24, 2010

Dear Senator:

As the Senate considers the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act* (H.R. 5297), the more than 160 undersigned organizations listed below strongly urge you to **oppose** the use of the Prevention and Public Health Fund from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as an offset for an amendment offered by Senator Johanns (No. 4596). Such an action would virtually eliminate the Fund, and mark a severe blow to this monumental commitment to prevention and public health under the Act. We will also oppose any other such efforts to use the Fund as an offset.

ACA included historic reforms that have the potential to transform our health system. For too long, we have focused spending on treating people once they are sick rather than preventing illness in the first place. The Prevention and Public Health Fund (Fund) is urgently needed to address the many emerging health threats our country faces and the persistent chronic disease rates that we must begin to control. The Fund is intended to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, sustainable, and accountable approach to improving our country's health outcomes through the most effective prevention and public health programs.

ACA clearly states that the money be used "for programs authorized by the Public Health Service Act, for prevention, wellness, and public health activities." The money would be strategically used to support disease prevention by promoting access to vaccines, building the public health workforce, and investing in community-based prevention. Furthermore, the Act specifically states that community-based prevention funding must only support evidence-based prevention programs which have been shown through scientific research to reduce chronic disease, including behavioral health conditions, and address health disparities. 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.

Already in Fiscal Year 2010, we have seen these funds invested for programs to promote tobacco control and implement tobacco cessation services and campaigns, as well as obesity prevention, better nutrition and physical activity. The fund has been invested to support state, local and tribal public health efforts to advance health promotion and disease prevention, and to build state and local capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The funds are also being used to support the training of current and next generation public health professionals.

The Fund is a unique opportunity to truly bend the cost curve on health care spending. Seventy-five percent of all health care costs in our country are spent on the treatment of chronic diseases, many of which could be prevented. Further, in a public opinion survey conducted just prior to the passage of the Act, Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) found that 71 percent of Americans favored an increased investment in disease prevention and that disease prevention was one of the most popular components of health reform. We must ensure that we capitalize on the unprecedented opportunity to transform our public health system by investing in prevention and public health. **We urge you to vote NO on the prevention fund offset within the Johanns amendment, or on any other such legislative vehicles.**

Sincerely,

AARP  
AIDS Action  
AIDS Alabama  
All Saints Home Care

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for International Aging  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Counseling Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Thoracic Society  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of State and State and Territorial Dental Directors  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Atlanta Regional Health Forum

A World Fit for Kids!

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Building Healthier America  
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
California Center for Public Health Advocacy  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
California School Health Centers Association  
Campaign for Public Health  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Center for Health Improvement  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Coalition for Health Services Research  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
CommonHealth ACTION

Community Action Partnership  
Community Catalyst  
Community Health Councils  
Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute  
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation  
Connecticut Certification Board  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
County Health Executives Association of California  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Defeat Diabetes Fund  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Family Voices  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences  
Friends of AHRQ  
Friends of NCHS  
Friends of SAMHSA  
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.  
Health Care for America Now  
Health Law Advocates of Louisiana, Inc  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
Home Safety Council  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for Public Health Innovation  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)  
International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Louisiana Public Health Institute  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Media Policy Center  
Mental Health America  
Michigan Association for Local Public Health  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County & City Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention  
National Indian Project Center  
National Network of Public Health Institutes

National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Rural Health Association  
National WIC Association  
Nemours  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New York Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations  
Novo Nordisk  
NYU Langone Medical Center  
Out of Many, One  
Papa Ola Lokahi  
Partners for a Healthy Nevada  
Partnership for Prevention  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Prevention Institute  
Project Inform  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Public Health Law and Policy  
Public Health-Monroe County (MI)  
Public Health - Seattle and King County  
Public Health Solutions  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
REACH U.S. SouthEastern African American Center of Excellence for Elimination of Disparities (REACH  
U.S. SEA-CEED)  
RiverStone Health  
Safe States Alliance  
Service Employees International Union  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society for Public Health Education  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.  
TakeAction Minnesota  
The AIDS Institute  
The MetroHealth System  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
Trust for America's Health  
UHCAN Ohio  
United Ostomy Associations of America  
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services  
U.S. PIRG  
Washington Health Foundation  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
YMCA of the USA

