



October 14, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), a nonprofit health and nutrition advocacy organization, urges you to ensure that a national prevention and health promotion strategy, along with a well-funded prevention and public health fund, be included in health reform legislation.

For far too long, “prevention” has received lip-service from policy-makers, even though comprehensive, smart prevention programs would improve Americans’ health and save billions of dollars a year in health-care costs.

Preventing illness is the best way to promote health and hold down costs. The preventive approach must become the default—from breastfeeding the young to physical activity among the old. Indeed, considering the soaring costs of medical care, funding expanded coverage (or even maintaining current levels of coverage) will be impossible without making a comprehensive effort to prevent illnesses and, in some cases, treat them more economically.

Both the Senate HELP Committee’s Affordable Health Choices Act and the House Tri-Committee’s America’s Affordable Health Choices Act include a national prevention strategy and prevention public health fund.

As these bills move forward in the House and Senate, we urge you to insist that they be included in the health reform legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Jacobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Michael F. Jacobson, Ph.D.
Executive Director