

September 22, 2008

Dear Representative:

We the undersigned would like to express our support for H.Res. 1381, a resolution expressing the sense of the House that there should be an increased Federal commitment to prioritizing prevention and public health for all Americans.

As you know, chronic diseases, many of which are preventable, account for seven of every ten deaths in the U.S. and 75 percent of health care spending. U.S. health care costs total approximately \$2.2 trillion annually, which is nearly three times more than in 1990 and over eight times more than in 1980. Poor health and the skyrocketing health care costs in the U.S. could put our nation's economic security in jeopardy. In fact, a recent report by the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease noted that the indirect health care costs of chronic disease, such as absenteeism, cost our economy \$1 trillion each year.

We must begin to control our health care costs and give all Americans the opportunity to lead healthier lives. Of the more than \$1.7 trillion in health care spent nationally every year, less than 4 cents of every dollar is spent on prevention and public health, according to a recent report produced by The Brookings Institution.

Research has shown the benefits of clinical and community level prevention. For example, a report by the Partnership for Prevention found that increasing to 90 percent the use of just 5 preventive services: (1) the portion of adults who take aspirin daily to prevent heart disease, (2) the portion of smokers who are advised by a health professional to quit and are offered medication or other assistance, (3) the portion of adults age 50 and older who are up to date with any recommended screening for colorectal cancer, (4) the portion of adults age 50 and older immunized against flu annually, and (5) the portion of women age 40 and older who have been screened for breast cancer in the past 2 years, would save more than 100,000 lives each year in the United States.

Similarly, a new report by the Trust for America's Health entitled *Prevention for a Healthier America* finds that a small strategic investment in disease prevention could result in significant savings in U.S. health care costs. 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 five years. This is a return of \$5.60 for every \$1.

These are but two of the many studies and reports that show the benefits of our currently under funded public health efforts. For example, immunization programs and declines in smoking nationally have already saved billions of dollars, but there is so much more that we can do.

Clearly, investing in public health programs that promote prevention and preparedness can help further improve the quality of life for many Americans and can help reduce health care costs. The resolution recognizes the importance of strengthening our public health system to create an environment in which healthy choices become easier choices for Americans. **We urge your co-sponsorship of H.Res. 1381**, and look forward to working with you on this and other public health initiatives in the future.

Sincerely,

1. Advocates for Better Children's Diets
2. AIDS Action Baltimore
3. AIDS Action Council
4. AIDS Alabama
5. AIDS Project Los Angeles
6. Alpha-1 Association
7. America Walks
8. American Academy of Pediatrics
9. American Academy of HIV Medicine
10. American Academy of Nursing
11. American Academy of Physician Assistants
12. American Association for Dental Research
13. American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
14. American Association for Health Education
15. American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation
16. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
17. American Association of Colleges of Nursing
18. American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
19. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
20. American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.
21. American Association on Health and Disability
22. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
23. American College of Clinical Pharmacy
24. American College Health Association
25. American College of Gastroenterology
26. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
27. American College of Physicians
28. American College of Preventive Medicine
29. American College of Sports Medicine
30. American Dental Association
31. American Dental Education Association
32. American Dietetic Association
33. American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
34. American Lung Association
35. American Nurses Association
36. American Optometric Association
37. American Osteopathic Association
38. American Pharmacists Association
39. American Psychiatric Association
40. American Psychological Association
41. American Public Health Association
42. American School Health Association
43. American Society of Nephrology
44. Amputee Coalition of America

45. Arthritis Foundation
46. Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
47. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
48. Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
49. Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
50. Association of Public Health Laboratories
51. Association of Schools of Public Health
52. Association of State and Territorial Health Officers
53. Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
54. Association of University Centers on Disabilities
55. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
56. Campaign for Mental Health Reform
57. Campaign for Public Health
58. Campaign to End Obesity
59. Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health, SDSU
60. Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy
61. Center for Science in the Public Interest
62. Chautauqua County Steps to a HealthierNY
63. Children's Dental Health Project
64. CityMatCH
65. Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
66. Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
67. Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project
68. COPD Foundation
69. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
70. Defeat Diabetes Foundation
71. Delaware Academy of Medicine
72. Directors of Health Promotion and Education
73. DMAA: The Care Continuum Alliance
74. Environmental Health Education Center at the University of Maryland School of Nursing
75. Epilepsy Foundation
76. FamilyCook Productions
77. Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
78. Fresno Metro Ministry
79. Health Education Network of Delaware
80. Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
81. Hepatitis Foundation International
82. Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
83. Home Safety Council
84. Howard University Center for Wellness and Weight Loss Surgery
85. Infectious Diseases Society of America
86. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
87. Institute for America's Health
88. Institute for Health Protection
89. International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association
90. March of Dimes Foundation
91. Jamestown Area YMCA, Jamestown, NY

92. Jeffrey Modell Foundation
93. KaBOOM!
94. L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
95. Mental Health America
96. Micah's Mission
97. National AIDS Housing Coalition
98. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
99. National Association of Sport and Physical Education
100. National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
101. National Association of Community Health Centers
102. National Association of County and City Health Officials
103. National Association of Health Education Centers
104. National Association of Local Boards of Health
105. National Association of State EMS Officials
106. National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
107. National Coalition of STD Directors
108. National Complete Streets Coalition
109. National Council on Aging
110. National Council of Jewish Women
111. National Disease Clusters Alliance
112. National Environmental Health Association
113. National Health Council
114. National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
115. National Hispanic Medical Association
116. National Network of Public Health Institutes
117. National Nursing Centers Consortium
118. National Nursing Network Organization
119. National Psoriasis Foundation
120. National Recreation and Park Association
121. National Safety Council
122. National Tuberculosis Controllers Association
123. National University of Health Sciences
124. National Youth Advocacy Coalition
125. Nemours Health and Prevention Services
126. New York Academy of Medicine
127. New York State Nutrition Council
128. Partners for a Healthy Nevada
129. Partnership for Prevention
130. PE4life
131. Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.
132. Prevent Blindness America
133. Prevention Institute
134. Public Health Foundation
135. Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders (RID)
136. Renal Physicians Association
137. RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
138. Service Employees International Union

139. Samuels and Associates
140. Shaping America's Health
141. Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
142. Society for Adolescent Medicine
143. Society for Prevention Research
144. Society for Public Health Education
145. Society of Behavioral Medicine
146. Society of General Internal Medicine
147. Special Olympics, Inc.
148. Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
149. State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
150. The AIDS Institute
151. The Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
152. The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
153. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
154. The Praxis Project
155. The YBH Project, Inc.
156. TII CANN - Title II Community AIDS National Network
157. Trust for America's Health
158. VSP Vision Care
159. United Fresh Produce Association
160. United States Tennis Association
161. United States Water Fitness Association
162. Washington Health Foundation - Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign
163. YMCA of the USA
164. Young People's Healthy Heart Program