



## **Prevention Strategy & Investment Fund Provisions (House Bill)**

Seventy-five percent of health care costs go toward the treatment of chronic disease, and obesity alone is estimated to cost us almost \$147 billion per year. Health care costs will never be reduced until we improve the health and safety of Americans.

The House bill, through its creation of a National Prevention and Wellness Strategy and the Public Health Investment Fund, would reorient our health system towards prevention of disease and injuries, where our focus and our dollars should be expended.

**National Prevention and Wellness Strategy** - The federal government does not currently have any structure or plan that coordinates health policy across government to assess our public health status, establish national priorities, and identify health goals and objectives. The Strategy in this bill would accomplish those goals.

**The Public Health Investment Fund** created in this bill would be a dedicated funding stream for public health and prevention that is needed to meet the many emerging health threats we must face, and the persistent chronic disease and injury rates that we must begin to control.

- The Fund would build upon what we know already works and to test new approaches. It would prioritize prevention and health, not just treatment.
- The Fund would help finance the delivery of evidence-based, community-based prevention and wellness services grants. It allows flexibility for communities to determine the right mix of interventions.
- 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 would support core public health infrastructure to help state, local and tribal health departments meet their responsibilities and would ensure adequate levels of accountability.
- The funds are essential, as the nature and scope of responsibilities that public health officials are responsible for continues to grow. These responsibilities have expanded to entail emergency preparedness and response, an increasing role in food

safety, and now even helping to prevent and adapt to the health effects of climate change.

- The Fund authorizes and finances the U.S. Community Preventive Services Task Force and the Task Force on Clinical Preventive Services. It gives them the resources they need to do their job – that is, to provide the health community and policy makers with the information they need to make the best decisions about preventive health.
- Through the creation of a Public Health Workforce Corps and preventive medicine and public health training grant programs, the bill would help to address the persistent workforce shortages that state and local health departments are experiencing.