

{PREVENTION FUND BACKGROUNDER FOR ADVOCATES}

SUPPORT THE PREVENTION FUND: AN INVESTMENT IN THE HEALTH AND WEALTH OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Preventing disease and injury is the most effective, common-sense way to improve health in the United States. Too often, however, we focus on treating disease and injury after they occur instead of preventing them – providing sick care instead of health care.

Right now, tens of millions of Americans suffer from preventable chronic diseases, like heart disease and diabetes. Today's children are in danger of becoming the first generation to live shorter, less healthy lives than their parents. And, health care costs are rising and out of control.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund, established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), gives us a chance to turn our sick care system into a health care system. This year, the Prevention Fund will make \$750 million available to **communities in every state**, and over the subsequent 10 years, an additional \$16.5 billion in proven, effective ways to keep Americans healthier and more productive, and reduce health care costs.

THE SIMPLE MESSAGE TO YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: “SUPPORT THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND, AND OPPOSE EFFORTS TO REDUCE, ELIMINATE OR DIVERT ITS FUNDING.”

Talking points:

- Bring common sense into our health care system by helping people to stay healthy and not get sick in the first place.
- Help Americans to make healthier choices and take personal responsibility for their own health and the health of their families and children.
- Reduce health care costs for businesses and families; prevent suffering; save millions of lives; keep Americans healthy and at work; and improve the quality of life for all.
- Let your members of Congress know the Fund will provide support directly to their states, and that communities will be able to take local actions to:
 - ✓ Reduce tobacco use.
 - ✓ Help kids eat healthier meals and snacks and get more physical activity in school.
 - ✓ Expand mental health and injury prevention programs.
 - ✓ Improve prevention services in low-income and underserved communities.
 - ✓ Provide flu and other immunizations.
 - ✓ Protect our food, air, and water.
 - ✓ Fight infectious diseases.
 - ✓ Respond to natural disasters like floods and hurricanes.
 - ✓ Prepare for terror attacks.

{please report what you learn to Sue Polis at spolis@tfah.org}