

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Christopher Dodd  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Children and Families (HELP)  
428 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer,  
and Chairmen Harkin, Baucus, Dodd, Waxman, Rangel and Miller:

The undersigned organizations would like to thank you for your leadership in including strong prevention and public health provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Affordable Health Care for America Act. Enactment of these provisions would help ensure that health reform strengthens our public health infrastructure and reorients our health system towards prevention and preparedness. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude and strong support for the bills' establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism for prevention and public health through a Prevention and Public Health Fund and a Community Health Center Fund (Senate bill); and a Public Health Investment Fund (House bill).

## **Public Health Funding Level**

As you conference the Senate and House bills, we urge you to include the highest possible funding level for prevention and public health. The Senate-passed bill provides a combined \$25 billion for its Prevention and Public Health Fund and Community Health Center Fund, and the House-passed bill includes a total of \$33.9 billion for its Public Health Investment Fund. We strongly urge inclusion of no less than the House-passed amount in the final bill.

As you know, high rates of chronic disease are one of the biggest drivers of health care costs. In order to truly realign our priorities so that we can focus on health and wellness, instead of just disease treatment, we need a sustained and ongoing investment in prevention and public health, over and above current funding levels.

## **Public Health Fund Structure**

We also urge you to ensure that the final bill provides sustained investments of guaranteed funds for prevention and public health. Further, the bill should ensure that new funding supplement, not supplant, our current investment in prevention and public health.

We now have the opportunity to make a major course correction in the way our country deals with promoting public health. We would like to thank you again for capitalizing on this opportunity through the inclusion of dedicated funding for prevention, wellness, and public health and to express our enthusiastic support for enactment of the highest level of funding possible.

Sincerely,

1. Advocates for Better Children's Diets
2. All Saints Home Care And Referral Services (CA)
3. American Academy of Pediatrics
4. American Academy of Physician Assistants
5. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
6. American Association for Health Education
7. American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
8. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
9. American Association on Health and Disability
10. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
11. American College of Clinical Pharmacy

12. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
13. American College of Preventive Medicine
14. American Diabetes Association
15. American Heart Association
16. American Lung Association
17. American Public Health Association
18. American Thoracic Society
19. Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
20. Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
21. Arthritis Foundation
22. Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.
23. Association for Utah Community Health
24. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
25. Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
26. Association of Public Health Laboratories
27. Association of Schools of Public Health
28. Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
29. Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
30. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
31. Beach Cities Health District (CA)
32. Bi-State Primary Care Association
33. Brooklyn Perinatal Network, Inc.
34. Bryan County Health Department (GA)
35. California Center for Public Health Advocacy
36. California Primary Care Association
37. Camden County Health Department (GA)
38. Campaign for Public Health
39. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
40. Center for Adolescent Health & the Law
41. Center for Science in the Public Interest
42. CEO Services (NY)
43. Chatham County Health Department (GA)
44. Children's Dental Health Project
45. Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland
46. Christian County Health Department (KY)
47. City**MatCH**
48. Colorado Community Health Network
49. Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
50. CommonHealth ACTION
51. Community Action Partnership
52. Community Catalyst
53. Community Health Association of Mountain/Plains States
54. Community Health Care Association of New York State

55. Community Health Centers of Arkansas, *Arkansas Primary Care Association*
56. Community Health Councils
57. Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
58. Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
59. County Health Executives Association of California
60. Defeat Diabetes Foundation
61. Delaware Center for Health Promotion
62. Effingham County Health Department (GA)
63. Faces & Voices of Recovery
64. FamilyCook Productions
65. Family Voices
66. Georgia Public Health Association
67. Glynn County Health Department (GA)
68. Hawai'i Primary Care Association
69. Health Education Network of Delaware
70. Health Justice Network
71. Health Officers Association of California
72. Health Resources in Action, Inc.
73. Hepatitis B Foundation
74. Hepatitis Foundation International
75. Home Safety Council
76. Huron County Health Department (MI)
77. Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
78. Illinois Primary Health Care Association
79. Indiana Association of Public Health Physicians and Local Health Departments Organization, Inc
80. Indiana Primary Health Care Association
81. Infectious Diseases Society of America
82. Institute for Public Health Innovation
83. International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association
84. Iron Disorders Institute
85. Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
86. Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
87. Kentucky Health Departments Association
88. Kentucky Public Health Association
89. KHMER HEALTH ADVOCATES, Inc
90. La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
91. Liberty County Health Department (GA)
92. Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
93. Long County Health Department (GA)
94. Louisiana Primary Care Association
95. Louisiana Public Health Institute
96. Maine Primary Care Association
97. March of Dimes Foundation
98. Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

99. McIntosh County Health Department (GA)
100. Mental Health America
101. Michigan Primary Care Association
102. Minnesota Association of Community Health Center
103. Mississippi Primary Health Care Association
104. Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
105. Missouri Primary Care Association
106. Monroe County Public Health Department (MI)
107. National Alliance of Multi-ethnic Behavioral Health Associations
108. National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
109. National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
110. National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
111. National Association for Sport and Physical Education
112. National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
113. National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.
114. National Association of County and City Health Officials
115. National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
116. National Athletic Trainers' Association
117. National Center for Healthy Housing
118. National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
119. National Coalition of STD Directors
120. National Council of Asian and Pacific Islander Physicians
121. National Environmental Health Association
122. National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
123. National Health Equity Coalition
124. National Network of Public Health Institutes
125. National Nursing Network Organization
126. National Recreation and Park Association
127. National REACH Coalition
128. National WIC Association
129. Nebraska State Association of County & City Health Officials
130. Nemours
131. New Jersey Association of County Health Officers
132. New Jersey Health Officers Association
133. New Jersey Primary Care Association
134. New Mexico Primary Care Association
135. New York Academy of Medicine
136. New York State Association of County Health Officials
137. North American Quitline Consortium
138. North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
139. North Carolina Community Health Center Association
140. Novo Nordisk
141. OCA: Embracing the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans
142. Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
143. Oregon Primary Care Association

144. Out of Many, One
145. Partnership for Prevention
146. Physician Assistant Education Association
147. PolicyLink
148. Prevention Institute
149. Public Health Foundation
150. Public Health Institute
151. Public Health-Seattle & King County
152. Public Health Solutions
153. Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
154. Society for Public Health Education
155. South Asian Americans Leading Together
156. South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
157. Special Services for Groups, Inc. - ALAS para tu Salud
158. Special Services for Groups, Inc. - PALS for Health
159. State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
160. Texas Association of Local Health Officials
161. The AIDS Institute
162. Thurston County Board of Health (WA)
163. Trust for America's Health
164. Tuscola County Health Department (MI)
165. United Fresh Produce Association
166. United Way Worldwide
167. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
168. Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials
169. Washington Health Foundation- Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign
170. West Virginia Primary Care Association
171. Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
172. Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
173. YMCA of the USA