

January 15, 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 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
10. American College of Clinical Pharmacy
11. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

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

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

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

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