

February 12, 2009

Dear Conferee:

Our 180 organizations express our gratitude and support for the robust public health provisions included in the House-passed version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and our extreme disappointment over the \$5.8 billion in prevention and wellness funding stripped from the Senate bill. We urge you to maintain the House-passed level of \$3 billion for prevention and wellness in the final enacted version of the bill.

As you know, the public health system is experiencing severe workforce shortages. State and local health departments lost over 11,000 jobs last year. The Prevention and Wellness Fund included in the House bill would help to restore lost jobs and prevent a projected additional 10,000 job vacancies from occurring next year in health departments.

During an economic downturn, it is important to have a strong safety net to support individuals who are losing their health coverage. As unemployment rates soar, unemployed workers and their families turn to state and local health departments and community-based organizations for basic health services, like immunizations and preventive services that are provided free of charge to those who cannot afford them. Toward that end, we hope that you will consider an investment in wellness and prevention as a means of restoring and creating jobs, as well as offering assistance to struggling families.

The recovery and reinvestment legislation affords the opportunity to stimulate the economy and strengthen our investment in health infrastructure and workforce while building stronger, healthier communities. This investment can also help stave off the onset of many costly chronic diseases and avoid the need for treatment of expensive complications of disease. Controlling health care costs will be critical to getting the country's economy back on track. Fundamental health care reform, particularly reform that focuses on ways to keep Americans healthier, must be part of solving our current financial crisis. Funding for public health and disease prevention in the stimulus bill is a down payment toward reducing health care costs over the long term.

Our nation needs a healthy and productive population to meet the challenges of the future, and rebound from these difficult times. An investment in public health will put us on a preferred path of prevention and wellness. To prevent further job loss in state and local health departments, stimulate job creation in the health field, and fully capitalize on the opportunity to promote health, we ask that you include at least \$3 billion for prevention and wellness in the final version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Active Transportation Alliance (IL)  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
AHIA - NAIFA Health & Employee Benefits  
AIDS Action Council  
ALERT Health, Inc.  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Council on Exercise

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American School Health Association  
America Walks  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Alliance for Health, Physical Education,  
Recreation, and Dance

American Association for Health Education  
 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
 American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
 American Association on Health and Disability  
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
 American College of Preventive Medicine  
 American College of Sports Medicine  
 American Council on Exercise  
 American Diabetes Association  
 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
 American Heart Association  
 American Lung Association  
 American Occupational Therapy Association  
 American Osteopathic Association  
 American Psychiatric Association  
 American Psychological Association  
 American Physical Therapy Association  
 American Public Health Association  
 American School Health Association  
 American Social Health Association  
 American Society of Nephrology  
 American Thoracic Society  
 Amputee Coalition of America  
 Arthritis Foundation  
 Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association  
 Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
 Association of Immunization Managers  
 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
 Association of Public Health Laboratories  
 Association of Schools of Public Health  
 Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors  
 Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
 Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
 Autism Society of America  
 Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
 Brain Injury Association of America  
 Breathe California  
 California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
 California Certification Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
 California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals  
 Campaign for Public Health  
 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
 Campaign to End Obesity  
 Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
 Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy  
 Center for Science in the Public Interest  
 Children's Dental Health Project  
 CityMatCH  
 Coalition for Health Services Research  
 Coalition for Public Health  
 Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
 Community Health Councils  
 Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute  
 Community Partners for Better Health (NV)  
 Defeat Diabetes Foundation  
 Directors of Health Promotion and Education  
 DMAA: The Care Continuum Alliance  
 Emergency Nurses Association  
 Evergreen State Amateur Athletic Council (WA)  
 Every Child By Two  
 Faces and Voices of Recovery  
 FamilyCook Productions  
 Fall Prevention Center of Excellence  
 First Focus  
 Friends of NCHS  
 Friends of SAMHSA  
 Fund a Nurse, Inc  
 GlaxoSmithKline  
 Health Education Network of Delaware  
 Healthcare Consortium  
 Healthcare Leadership Council  
 Healthy Homes Collaborative  
 Hep C Connection  
 Hepatitis B Foundation  
 Hepatitis C Association  
 Hepatitis Foundation International  
 High Sierra Area Health Education Center  
 HIV Medicine Association  
 Home Safety Council  
 Infectious Diseases Society of America  
 Institute of Public Health - Georgia State University  
 International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association

March of Dimes Foundation  
 National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
 National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
 National Association for Sport and Physical Education  
 National Association of Chronic Disease Directors  
 National Association of County and City Health Officials  
 National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
 National Association of People with AIDS  
 National Association of RSVP Directors  
 National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors  
 National Association of State EMS Officials  
 National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
 National Coalition of STD Directors  
 National Council on Aging  
 National Disease Clusters Alliance  
 National Environmental Health Association  
 National Health Council  
 National Hispanic Medical Association  
 National Hispanic Health Foundation  
 National Kidney Foundation  
 National Medical Association  
 National Minority AIDS Council  
 National Nurses Advisory Council  
 National Nursing Centers Consortium  
 National Nursing Network Organization  
 National PTA  
 National REACH Coalition for the Elimination of Health Disparities  
 National Recreation and Park Association  
 National Sleep Foundation  
 National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
 National WIC Association  
 Nemours  
 New Mexico Hepatitis C Alliance  
 New York State Nutrition Council  
 North Shore Health Project (MA)  
 Northwest Federation of Community Organizations  
 OraSure Technologies  
 Partners for a Healthy Nevada  
 Partnership for Prevention  
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
 Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.  
 Prevention Institute  
 Public Health Foundation  
 Public Health Institute  
 Public Health-Seattle & King County (WA)  
 Red River Democrats  
 Research!America  
 Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders  
 RWJF Center for Health Policy  
 Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
 Save the Children  
 Seattle Sports Commission  
 Service Employees International Union  
 Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.  
 Shaping America's Health  
 Snohomish Health District  
 Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Control  
 Society for Behavioral Medicine  
 Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
 Society for Public Health Education  
 Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association  
 Sports4Kids  
 State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association  
 Strategic Health Policy International, Inc.  
 The AIDS Institute  
 The Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts  
 The Healthcare Consortium, Inc (Hudson, NY)  
 The National TB Controllers Association  
 The New York Academy of Medicine  
 The Seniors Coalition  
 The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
 The YBH Project, Inc.  
 Trust for America's Health  
 UCHAPS: Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services  
 United Fresh Produce Association  
 U.S. PIRG  
 Visiting Nurse Associations of America  
 Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
 Washington Health Foundation- Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign  
 Women's Sports Foundation  
 YMCA of the USA

