Whereas, The Prevention and Public Health Fund was established under Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act “to provide for expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public sector health care costs”; and

Whereas, Less than 5% of our nation’s health care expenditures is spent on public health; and

Whereas, There is a shortfall of $20 billion every year in public health funding; and

Whereas, The Prevention and Public Health Fund is providing $1 billion in Fiscal Year 2012 for clinical preventive services, community prevention, public education, public health workforce, and public health capacity and infrastructure; and

Whereas, The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 has already reduced the budget for the Prevention and Public Health Fund by $6.25 billion over nine years, or 33% of its original funding, and further cuts have been threatened; and

Whereas, State and local public health budgets are already under extreme pressure from the current economic climate; and

Whereas, Investment in evidence-based population level interventions can significantly reduce overall healthcare costs by preventing disease from occurring and is especially critical to fighting the epidemic of chronic disease; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support budget allocations from the Prevention and Public Health Fund at no less than the levels adopted in the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA actively oppose policies that aim to cut, divert, or use as an offset, dollars from the Prevention and Public Health Fund for purposes other than those stipulated in the Affordable Care Act of 2010. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between $1,000 - $5,000.

Received: 9/28/12