

September 1, 2010

Dear Senator:

As the Senate considers the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act* (H.R. 5297), the 228 undersigned organizations listed below strongly urge you to **oppose** the use of the Prevention and Public Health Fund from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as an offset for an amendment offered by Senator Johanns (No. 4596). Such an action would virtually eliminate the Fund, and mark a severe blow to this monumental commitment to prevention and public health under the Act. We will also oppose any other such efforts to use the Fund as an offset.

ACA included historic reforms that have the potential to transform our health system. For too long, we have focused spending on treating people once they are sick rather than preventing illness in the first place. The Prevention and Public Health Fund (Fund) is urgently needed to address the many emerging health threats our country faces and the persistent chronic disease rates that we must begin to control. The Fund is intended to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, sustainable, and accountable approach to improving our country's health outcomes through the most effective prevention and public health programs.

ACA clearly states that the money be used "for programs authorized by the Public Health Service Act, for prevention, wellness, and public health activities." The money would be strategically used to support disease prevention by promoting access to vaccines, building the public health workforce, and investing in community-based prevention. Furthermore, the Act specifically states that community-based prevention funding must only support evidence-based prevention programs which have been shown through scientific research to reduce chronic disease, including behavioral health conditions, and address health disparities. Research has shown that effective community level prevention activities focusing on nutrition, physical activity and smoking cessation can reduce chronic disease rates and have a significant return on investment.

Already in Fiscal Year 2010, we have seen these funds invested for programs to promote tobacco control and implement tobacco cessation services and campaigns, as well as obesity prevention, better nutrition and physical activity. The fund has been invested to support state, local and tribal public health efforts to advance health promotion and disease prevention, and to build state and local capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The funds are also being used to support the training of current and next generation public health professionals.

The Fund is a unique opportunity to truly bend the cost curve on health care spending. Seventy-five percent of all health care costs in our country are spent on the treatment of chronic diseases, many of which could be prevented. Further, in a public opinion survey conducted just prior to the passage of the Act, Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) found that 71 percent of Americans favored an increased investment in disease prevention and that disease prevention was one of the most popular components of health reform.

We must ensure that we capitalize on the unprecedented opportunity to transform our public health system by investing in prevention and public health. **We urge you to vote NO on the prevention fund offset within the Johanns amendment, or on any other such legislative vehicles.**

Sincerely,

AARP
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
AIDS Alabama
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for International Aging
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic
Medicine
American Association of People With Disabilities
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Congress of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association
American Psychological Association
American Social Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Arthritis Foundation
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association for Prevention Teaching and
Research
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Directors of
Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
A World Fit for Kids!
Boston Public Health Commission
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition

California Center for Public Health Advocacy
California Foundation for the Advancement of
Addiction Professionals
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California School Health Centers Association
Campaign for Public Health
CASA de Maryland
Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Children and Adults with Attention-
Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
Children's Dental Health Project

ACCESS Women's Health Justice
AIDS Action
All Saints Home Care
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Occupational and Environmental
Medicine
American Counseling Association
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Lung Association
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Applied Research Center
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Atlanta Regional Health Forum

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Building Healthier America
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Counselors
California Food Policy Advocates
California Immigrant Policy Center

California Partnership
Campaign for Community Change
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
C-Change
Center for Health Improvement

Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio
Children Now

City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Coalition for Health Services Research
Colon Cancer Alliance

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S.
Public Health Service
Community Action Partnership
Community Health Councils

Comprehensive Health Education Foundation
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
County Health Executives Association of
California
Defeat Diabetes Fund
Faith Action for Community Equity
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain
Sciences
Friends of AHRQ
Friends of SAMHSA
Granite State Organizing Project
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.
Health Care for America Now
Health Promotion Advocates
Hepatitis Foundation International
Home Safety Council
Indian People's Action
Institute for Health and Productivity Studies
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
International Certification and Reciprocity
Consortium (IC&RC)
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Korean Resource Center
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Main Street Alliance
Make the Road New York
Maricopa County Dept of Public Health
Mental Health America
Montana Organizing Project
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care

National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Chronic Disease
Directors
National Association of Counties
National Association of Local Boards of Health

National Association of School Nurses

National Association of State Mental Health
Program Directors

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of LA
Colorado Progressive Coalition

CommonHealth ACTION

Community Catalyst
Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health
Institute
Connecticut Certification Board
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America

Digestive Disease National Coalition
Family Voices
First Five

Friends of NCHS
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Grassroots Organizing
Having Our Say Coalition
Health Law Advocates of Louisiana, Inc
Health Rights Organizing Project
HIV Medicine Association
Idaho Community Action Network
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for Public Health Innovation

International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association

ISAI AH
Libreria del Pueblo Inc.
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative
Maine People's Alliance
March of Dimes Foundation
Media Policy Center
Michigan Association for Local Public Health
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association for Public Health Statistics and
Information Systems
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Community Health Centers

National Association of County & City Health Officials
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health
Systems
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Directors
National Business Coalition on Health

National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander
Physicians
National Council of La Raza
National Environmental Health Association

National Federation of Families for Children's
Mental Health
National Health Council

National Korean American Service and
Education Consortium
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Rural Health Association
Nebraska Appleseed
Nemours
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
New York Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
Novo Nordisk
Ocean State Action
Oregon Action
Papa Ola Lokahi
Partnership for Prevention
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Progress Ohio
Project Inform
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Law and Policy
Public Health - Seattle and King County
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
REACH U.S. SouthEastern African American
Center of Excellence for Elimination of
Disparities (REACH U.S. SEA-CEED)
Safe States Alliance
Sexuality Information and Education Council of
the U.S.
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
South Carolina Fair Share
TakeAction Minnesota
The AIDS Institute
The Greenlining Institute
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent
Health
Trust for America's Health
United Action Connecticut
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention
Services

National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women

National Education Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health
Association

National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
National Indian Project Center
Northeast Ohio Alliance for
Hope

National Network of Public Health Institutes

National Recreation and Park Association
National WIC Association
Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New York Immigration Coalition
North Carolina Fair Share
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations
NYU Langone Medical Center
Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans
Out of Many, One
Partners for a Healthy Nevada
Physician Assistant Education Association
Prevention Institute
Progressive Leadership Association of Nevada
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Institute
Public Health-Monroe County (MI)
Public Health Solutions
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
RiverStone Health

Service Employees International Union
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Society for Public Health Education
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.
Tenants and Workers United
The Amos Project
The MetroHealth System
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice

UHCAN Ohio
United Ostomy Associations of America
U.S. PIRG

Virginia Organizing Project
West South Dakota Native American Organizing
Project
YMCA of the USA

Washington Health Foundation
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with
Heart Disease