



June 16, 2009

The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
317 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
379A Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy and Senator Enzi:

On behalf of the American College of Preventive Medicine and Partnership for Prevention we urge you to support the *Prevention and Public Health Investment Fund* found in Section 302 of the “Affordable Health Choices Act” as an important step to expand and sustain a national investment in prevention and public health programs aimed at improving the nation’s prevention, wellness and public health efforts.

This funding mechanism puts prevention within the reach of every American, helps strengthen our workforce and our communities by reducing preventable disease and disability, and provides our children with a strong foundation for lifelong health. The funding will help assure we have the resources to take advantage of emerging research findings and health promoting programs and policies, have a highly trained preventive care workforce, and have the systems in place to support high quality, efficient preventive care and programs.

Policymakers across the political spectrum now agree that more must be done to prevent disease and promote health; yet, little can be done without a proper investment in continuing to build the evidence-base needed to truly transform our health care system from a treatment-based system to a prevention-based system. While the value of prevention at the individual and population levels is beginning to take hold, more must be done to ensure that appropriate prevention policies are supported across the entire health system and that we work to disseminate and implement proven evidence-based prevention strategies.

Prevention and wellness lie at the core of improved health, improved quality of life, increased productivity, and a more competitive US workforce, and we urge that you support the *Prevention and Public Health Investment Fund*. We simply cannot afford to pass on this opportunity to solidify support for prevention and wellness programs and policies and place them on a firm footing for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Johnson, MD, MPH, FACPM  
President  
American College of Preventive Medicine

Robert J. Gould, PhD  
President & CEO  
Partnership for Prevention