



October 14, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), the nation's specialty society for physicians committed to disease prevention and health promotion, we urge that you work to include strong prevention and wellness provisions in the final health care reform legislation. These provisions include a Prevention and Public Health Investment Fund, elimination of patient barriers to preventive services, and support for research aimed at expanding our evidence base for clinical and community-based preventive services. Such efforts will ensure that appropriate prevention and wellness policies are supported and utilized across the entire health system

ACPM has long worked to support efforts that eliminate patient barriers to clinical preventive services, expand the depth of federal research in clinical and community-based prevention modalities, and increase the provision of clinical preventive services as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The College has also worked to enhance the public health physician workforce by calling on Congress to provide critical support to our 71 preventive medicine residency training programs.

Some of the current health care reform proposals address these priority areas by creating a Prevention and Public Health Investment Fund; a historic fund that will put prevention within the reach of every American, strengthen our communities by reducing preventable disease and disability, and provide our children with a strong foundation for lifelong health. Additionally, the fund will help us confront many of the public health workforce challenges that remain unaddressed.

Policymakers across the political spectrum now agree that more must be done to prevent disease and promote health. We ask that you work to ensure that the final health care reform proposal embodies this agreement by working to support and protect the strong prevention and wellness provisions that are presently included in the House and Senate health care reform bills.

We thank you for your commitment to prevention and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark B. Johnson, MD, MPH, FACPM
President