

September 14, 2010

Dear Senator:

As the Senate considers the *Small Business Jobs and Credit Act* (H.R. 5297), the 248 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  
ACCESS Women's Health Justice  
Advocates for Better Children's Diets  
AIDS Action  
AIDS Alabama  
All Saints Home Care  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for International Aging  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of People With Disabilities  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Counseling Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Dietetic Association  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Social Health Association

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Thoracic Society  
Applied Research Center  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
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 State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Atlanta Regional Health Forum  
A World Fit for Kids!  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Berkeley Media Studies Group  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Building Healthier America  
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition  
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
California Center for Public Health Advocacy  
California Conference of Local Health Department Nursing Directors  
California Food Policy Advocates  
California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals  
California Immigrant Policy Center  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network  
California Partnership

California School Health Centers Association  
Campaign for Community Change  
Campaign for Public Health  
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids  
CASA de Maryland  
C-Change  
Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Center for Health Improvement  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Children Now  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Children's Health Fund  
City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
Coalition for Health Services Research  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of LA  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Colorado Progressive Coalition  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
CommonHealth ACTION  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Catalyst  
Community Health Councils  
Community Health Partnership:  
Oregon's Public Health Institute  
Comprehensive Health Education Foundation  
Connecticut Certification Board  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
County Health Executives Association of California  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Defeat Diabetes Fund  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Faith Action for Community Equity  
Family Voices  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences  
First Five

Friends of AHRQ  
Friends of NCHS  
Friends of SAMHSA  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Granite State Organizing Project  
Grassroots Organizing  
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.  
Having Our Say Coalition  
Health Care for America Now  
Health Law Advocates of Louisiana, Inc  
Health Promotion Advocates  
Health Rights Organizing Project  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Medicine Association  
Home Safety Council  
Idaho Community Action Network  
Indian People's Action  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for Health and Productivity Studies Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University  
Institute for Public Health Innovation  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)  
International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
ISALAH  
JWCH Institute, Inc.  
Korean Resource Center  
Libreria del Pueblo Inc.  
Louisiana Public Health Institute  
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative  
Main Street Alliance  
Maine People's Alliance  
Make the Road New York  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Maricopa County Dept of Public Health  
Media Policy Center  
Mental Health America  
Michigan Association for Local Public Health  
Montana Organizing Project  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care

National Association for Public Health  
Statistics and Information Systems  
National Association of Chain Drug  
Stores  
National Association of Children's  
Hospitals  
National Association of Chronic Disease  
Directors  
National Association of Community  
Health Centers  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County & City  
Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of  
Health  
National Association of Public Hospitals  
and Health Systems  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of State Alcohol  
and Drug Abuse Directors  
National Association of State Mental  
Health Program Directors  
National Business Coalition on Health  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council of Asian Pacific  
Islander Physicians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Aging  
National Education Association  
National Environmental Health  
Association  
National Family Planning &  
Reproductive Health Association  
National Federation of Families for  
Children's Mental Health  
National Forum for Heart Disease and  
Stroke Prevention  
National Health Council  
National Indian Project Center  
National Kidney Foundation  
Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope  
National Korean American Service and  
Education Consortium  
National Network of Public Health  
Institutes  
National Nursing Centers Consortium

National Recreation and Park  
Association  
National Rural Health Association  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National WIC Association  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition  
Nemours  
New Hampshire Public Health  
Association  
New York Academy of Medicine  
NYC Department of Health and Mental  
Hygiene  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Society for Gastrointestinal  
Endoscopy  
North Carolina Fair Share  
Northern Illinois Public Health  
Consortium  
Northwest Federation of Community  
Organizations  
Novo Nordisk  
NYU Langone Medical Center  
Ocean State Action  
Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans  
Oregon Action  
Out of Many, One  
Papa Ola Lokahi  
Partners for a Healthy Nevada  
Partnership for Prevention  
Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group  
Pew Children's Dental Campaign  
Physician Assistant Education  
Association  
Planned Parenthood Federation of  
America  
PolicyLink  
Prevention Institute  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses  
Association  
Progress Ohio  
Progressive Leadership Association of  
Nevada  
Project Inform  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
Public Health Foundation  
Public Health Institute  
Public Health Law and Policy  
Public Health-Monroe County (MI)

Public Health - Seattle and King County  
Public Health Solutions  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
REACH U.S. SouthEastern African  
American Center of Excellence for  
Elimination of Disparities (REACH U.S.  
SEA-CEED)  
RiverStone Health  
Safe States Alliance  
Service Employees International Union  
Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the U.S.  
Society for Adolescent Health and  
Medicine  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of  
America  
Society for Public Health Education  
South Carolina Fair Share  
Summit Health Institute for Research  
and Education, Inc.  
TakeAction Minnesota  
Tenants and Workers United  
Thai Health and Information Services,  
Inc.  
The AIDS Institute

The Amos Project  
The Community Heart Health Coalition  
of Ulster County  
The Greenlining Institute  
The LGBT Cancer Project - Out With  
Cancer  
The MetroHealth System  
The National Alliance to Advance  
Adolescent Health  
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice  
Trust for America's Health  
UHCAN Ohio  
United Action Connecticut  
United Ostomy Associations of  
America  
Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS  
Prevention Services  
U.S. PIRG  
Virginia Organizing Project  
Washington Health Foundation  
West South Dakota Native American  
Organizing Project  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition  
for Women with Heart Disease  
YMCA of the USA