

August 13, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Partnership for Prevention, a national membership organization representing business, governmental and philanthropic leaders, I urge you to oppose amendment # 4531 to the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act to be offered next month by Senator Mike Johanns (R-Neb). The amendment would divert billions in critically needed funding from the National Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund was established to meet vital national public health and prevention needs. As you know, rising rates of chronic disease such as obesity, cancer, diabetes and heart disease are driving the cost of health care higher. Chronic and often preventable diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths among Americans each year and account for 75 percent of the nation's health spending. Our ability to reduce the incidence of chronic disease will be heavily influenced by the programs intended to be funded from this new program established by Public Law 111-148; the "Affordable Care Act."

The state of public health in our country is threatened by unprecedented funding reductions such as those proposed by the Johanns Amendment. Indeed, there are growing concerns that the rise in obesity over the past twenty years now threatens to create a reality where today's generation of children may not live as long as their parents. That is not a legacy we should leave the next generation. We can do better. In creating the Prevention and Public Health fund, Congress wisely invested these monies in State and local programs that will help foster healthier families, schools, and communities.

The dedicated funding Congress provided for the Prevention and Public Health fund provides a vital lifeline for public health agencies fighting infectious disease as well as communities seeking to create the kinds of working and living environments that will support healthy, physically active lifestyles. High-quality preventive care helps Americans stay healthy, avoid or delay the onset of disease, lead productive lives and reduce costs. The Prevention and Public Health Fund was created and included as part of health reform to help control the rising cost of chronic disease by providing the programs and screening tools necessary to keep people healthy.

I urge you to oppose this and any future efforts to divert funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Please vote NO on the prevention fund offset within the Johanns Amendment to the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Gould, PhD
President and CEO