



October 13, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Support prevention and public health in health reform

Dear President Obama:

I urge you to support the inclusion of Title III of Division C of HR 3200 (the Affordable Health Choices Act) in any final health reform bill. The provisions of Title III of Division C, "Prevention and Wellness" address improvement of health status in the United States and prevention of disease and disability.

HR 3200 establishes a comprehensive, scientific, and accountable approach to nationwide health improvement. In particular, the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund and grants to fund core public health infrastructure and activities represent a long-needed innovative mechanism for financing public health and prevention. Community Prevention and Wellness Services Grants will address unmet prevention and wellness needs and address rising rates of chronic disease. In addition, these grants will target health disparities and allow local health departments to focus on underserved populations.

The Act also recognizes the importance of advancing the evidence base for prevention. Enhanced support for the Community and Clinical Preventive Services Task Forces is essential to guide both public health research and practice, as is the proposed additional research in public health services and systems. The provisions concerning a national prevention and health promotion strategy also help to inform a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to prevention.

The public health and prevention provisions of HR 3200 represent an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the public health system that safeguards the public's health through local health departments across the country. Again, I urge your support for the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund and other public health provisions in any final health reform bill this year. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Goldstein", written in a cursive style.

Harold Goldstein, DrPH  
Executive Director