

IT'S TIME TO PUT THE  
**HEALTH**  
BACK INTO HEALTH REFORM



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

**A**s a constituent and someone who works in one of your district's local health departments to promote health and prevent disease, I urge you to support a stable, reliable federal investment in the nation's governmental public health system as a vital component of health reform legislation.

Health insurance is essential to pay for people to get medical care when they are sick; however, it is not enough to keep them healthy in the first place. The medical care system treats patients one at a time, while the focus of public health and local health departments is to protect entire communities. To ensure the nation's health and well-being we must have a strong and well-funded public health infrastructure that complements our medical care system.

The local health departments in our state are the bedrock of this system. They keep food safe, detect and stop outbreaks of disease—such as H1N1 influenza—and help create and maintain conditions in their communities that support people in making healthier choices.

A Prevention and Wellness Trust, as outlined in the pending healthcare reform legislation, will provide a much-needed reliable annual funding mechanism to help local and state health departments sustain the basic public health protections that every community expects. The Public Health Investment Fund in the legislation will also increase the numbers of skilled public health professionals, of which there is a serious shortage. This investment is essential to fulfilling the ultimate promise of health reform—to help America become healthier.

I look forward to hearing back from you on this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional  
Comments:**