

February 5, 2009

Dear Senator:

We would like to express our gratitude and support for the robust public health provisions included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, currently under consideration in the Senate. Our more than 100 organizations urge you to reject any amendments to strike all or part of these important provisions. As you know, the public health system has continued to experience workforce shortages, and investing in the public health sector will help stimulate job creation in the short-term and help build stronger, healthier communities. The recovery and reinvestment legislation affords the opportunity to stimulate the economy and strengthen our investment in health infrastructure and workforce while promoting disease prevention. Toward that end, we urge you to support the \$5.8 billion currently allocated in the legislation for prevention and wellness.

As you know, the U.S. spends more than any other nation on health care-- over \$2 trillion annually-- yet we lag behind many other countries in key indicators of health, including life expectancy. To reverse this trend, we need to drastically change our health care system and reorient it towards prevention and wellness. Investing in prevention and research can help stave off the onset of many costly diseases and avoid the need for treatment of expensive complications of diseases.

Controlling health care costs will be critical to getting the country's economy back on track. Fundamental health care reform, particularly reform that focuses on ways to keep Americans healthier, must be part of solving our current financial crisis. Funding for public health and disease prevention in the stimulus bill is a down payment toward reducing health care costs over the long term. The investment will create new jobs and help revitalize the infrastructure of state, local, and community-based programs aimed at reducing rates of disease. At the same time, these programs can help reduce health care costs. Further, evidence suggests that community-based and clinical preventive interventions promote and facilitate healthy lifestyles, and offer an effective means for the primary prevention of many chronic conditions.

Our nation needs a healthy and productive population to meet the challenges of the future, and rebound from these difficult times. An investment in public health will put us on a preferred path of prevention and wellness. Moreover, the evaluation and accountability components in the this bill will allow for an assessment of progress toward improving health so that best practices can be disseminated, lessons can be learned, and successful interventions can be replicated. This will help guide future efforts which will enable the implementation of the most effective programs to improve health and reduce health care costs. To stimulate job creation in the health field and fully capitalize on the opportunity to promote health, we ask that you include the full \$5.8 billion in the final version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Active Transportation Alliance (IL)
 Advocates for Better Children's Diets
 AHIA - NAIFA Health & Employee Benefits
 AIDS Action Council
 ALERT Health, Inc.
 American School Health Association
 America Walks
 American Academy of Nursing
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Academy of Physician Assistants
 American Association for the Study of Liver
 Diseases
 American Association of Colleges of
 Pharmacy
 American Association of Occupational Health
 Nurses
 American Association on Health and
 Disability
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action
 Network
 American College of Preventive Medicine
 American College of Sports Medicine
 American Federation of State, County and
 Municipal Employees
 American Heart Association
 American Lung Association
 American Occupational Therapy Association
 American Osteopathic Association
 American Psychiatric Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Public Health Association
 American Society of Nephrology
 American Thoracic Society
 Arthritis Foundation
 Asian Pacific American Medical Student
 Association
 Association of Maternal and Child Health
 Programs
 Association of Public Health Laboratories
 Association of State and Territorial Dental
 Directors
 California Association of Alcohol and Drug
 Abuse Counselors
 California Certification Board of Alcohol and
 Drug Abuse Counselors
 California Foundation for the Advancement of
 Addiction Professionals
 Autism Society of America
 Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
 Campaign for Public Health
 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
 Center for Biosecurity, University of
 Pittsburgh Medical Center
 Center for Science in the Public Interest
 Children's Dental Health Project
 CityMatCH
 Coalition for Health Services Research
 Coalition for Public Health
 Commissioned Officers Association of the
 U.S. Public Health Service
 Community Health Partnership: Oregon's
 Public Health Institute
 Community Partners for Better Health (NV)
 Defeat Diabetes Foundation
 FamilyCook Productions
 Fall Prevention Center of Excellence
 Friends of NCHS
 Friends of SAMHSA
 GlaxoSmithKline
 Health Education Network of Delaware
 Healthcare Consortium
 Healthcare Leadership Council
 Hep C Connection
 Hepatitis B Foundation
 Hepatitis C Association
 Hepatitis Foundation International
 HIV Medicine Association
 Infectious Diseases Society of America
 Institute of Public Health - Georgia State
 University
 March of Dimes Foundation
 National Alliance of State and Territorial
 AIDS Directors
 National Association for Public Health
 Statistics and Information Systems
 National Association for Sport and Physical
 Education
 National Association of Chronic Disease
 Directors
 National Association of County and City
 Health Officials
 National Association of State EMS Officials
 National Coalition for Promoting Physical
 Activity
 National Health Council
 National Hispanic Medical Association

National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Nursing Network Organization.
National Recreation and Park Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
Nemours
New Mexico Hepatitis C Alliance
North Shore Health Project (MA)
OraSure Technologies
Partners for a Healthy Nevada
Partnership for Prevention
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.
Prevention Institute
Public Health Foundation
Public Health Institute
Public Health-Seattle & King County (WA)
Researchers against Inactivity-related
Disorders
Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Save the Children
Service Employees International Union
Society for Advancement of Violence and
Injury Control
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
Sports4Kids
Strategic Health Policy International, Inc.
The AIDS Institute
The Healthcare Consortium, Inc (Hudson, NY)
The National TB Controllers Association
The Seniors Coalition
Trust for America's Health
UCHAPS: Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS
Prevention Services
United Fresh Produce Association
Visiting Nurse Associations of America
Washington Health Foundation- Healthiest
State in the Nation Campaign
Women's Sports Foundation
YMCA of the USA