

September 22, 2008

Dear Representative:

We the undersigned would like to express our support for H.Res. 1381, a resolution expressing the sense of the House that there should be an increased Federal commitment to prioritizing prevention and public health for all Americans.

As you know, chronic diseases, many of which are preventable, account for seven of every ten deaths in the U.S. and 75 percent of health care spending. U.S. health care costs total approximately \$2.2 trillion annually, which is nearly three times more than in 1990 and over eight times more than in 1980. Poor health and the skyrocketing health care costs in the U.S. could put our nation's economic security in jeopardy. In fact, a recent report by the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease noted that the indirect health care costs of chronic disease, such as absenteeism, cost our economy \$1 trillion each year.

We must begin to control our health care costs and give all Americans the opportunity to lead healthier lives. Of the more than \$1.7 trillion in health care spent nationally every year, less than 4 cents of every dollar is spent on prevention and public health, according to a recent report produced by The Brookings Institution.

Research has shown the benefits of clinical and community level prevention. For example, a report by the Partnership for Prevention found that increasing to 90 percent the use of just 5 preventive services: (1) the portion of adults who take aspirin daily to prevent heart disease, (2) the portion of smokers who are advised by a health professional to quit and are offered medication or other assistance, (3) the portion of adults age 50 and older who are up to date with any recommended screening for colorectal cancer, (4) the portion of adults age 50 and older immunized against flu annually, and (5) the portion of women age 40 and older who have been screened for breast cancer in the past 2 years, would save more than 100,000 lives each year in the United States.

Similarly, a new report by the Trust for America's Health entitled *Prevention for a Healthier America* finds that a small strategic investment in disease prevention could result in significant savings in U.S. health care costs. An investment of \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within five years. This is a return of \$5.60 for every \$1.

These are but two of the many studies and reports that show the benefits of our currently under funded public health efforts. For example, immunization programs and declines in smoking nationally have already saved billions of dollars, but there is so much more that we can do.

Clearly, investing in public health programs that promote prevention and preparedness can help further improve the quality of life for many Americans and can help reduce health care costs. The resolution recognizes the importance of strengthening our public health system to create an environment in which healthy choices become easier choices for Americans. **We urge your co-sponsorship of H.Res. 1381**, and look forward to working with you on this and other public health initiatives in the future.

Sincerely,

1. Advocates for Better Children's Diets
2. AIDS Action Baltimore
3. AIDS Action Council
4. AIDS Alabama
5. AIDS Project Los Angeles
6. Alpha-1 Association
7. American Academy of Pediatrics
8. America Walks
9. American Academy of HIV Medicine
10. American Academy of Nursing
11. American Academy of Physician Assistants
12. American Association for Dental Research
13. American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
14. American Association for Health Education
15. American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation
16. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
17. American Association of Colleges of Nursing
18. American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
19. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
20. American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.
21. American Association on Health and Disability
22. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
23. American College of Clinical Pharmacy
24. American College Health Association
25. American College of Gastroenterology
26. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
27. American College of Physicians
28. American College of Preventive Medicine
29. American College of Sports Medicine
30. American Dental Education Association
31. American Dietetic Association
32. American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
33. American Lung Association
34. American Nurses Association
35. American Optometric Association
36. American Osteopathic Association
37. American Pharmacists Association
38. American Psychiatric Association
39. American Psychological Association
40. American Public Health Association
41. American School Health Association
42. American Society of Nephrology
43. Amputee Coalition of America
44. Arthritis Foundation

45. Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
46. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
47. Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
48. Association of Nutrition Services Agencies
49. Association of Public Health Laboratories
50. Association of Schools of Public Health
51. Association of State and Territorial Health Officers
52. Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
53. Association of University Centers on Disabilities
54. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
55. Campaign for Mental Health Reform
56. Campaign for Public Health
57. Campaign to End Obesity
58. Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health, SDSU
59. Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy
60. Center for Science in the Public Interest
61. Chautauqua County Steps to a HealthierNY
62. Children's Dental Health Project
63. CityMatCH
64. Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
65. Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute
66. Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project
67. COPD Foundation
68. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
69. Defeat Diabetes Foundation
70. Delaware Academy of Medicine
71. Directors of Health Promotion and Education
72. DMAA: The Care Continuum Alliance
73. Environmental Health Education Center at the University of Maryland School of Nursing
74. Epilepsy Foundation
75. FamilyCook Productions
76. Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
77. Fresno Metro Ministry
78. Health Education Network of Delaware
79. Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
80. Hepatitis Foundation International
81. Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
82. Home Safety Council
83. Howard University Center for Wellness and Weight Loss Surgery
84. Infectious Diseases Society of America
85. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
86. Institute for America's Health
87. Institute for Health Protection
88. International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association
89. March of Dimes Foundation
90. Jamestown Area YMCA, Jamestown, NY
91. Jeffrey Modell Foundation

92. KaBOOM!
93. L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
94. Mental Health America
95. Micah's Mission
96. National AIDS Housing Coalition
97. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
98. National Association of Sport and Physical Education
99. National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
100. National Association of Community Health Centers
101. National Association of County and City Health Officials
102. National Association of Health Education Centers
103. National Association of Local Boards of Health
104. National Association of State EMS Officials
105. National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
106. National Coalition of STD Directors
107. National Complete Streets Coalition
108. National Council on Aging
109. National Council of Jewish Women
110. National Disease Clusters Alliance
111. National Environmental Health Association
112. National Health Council
113. National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
114. National Hispanic Medical Association
115. National Network of Public Health Institutes
116. National Nursing Centers Consortium
117. National Nursing Network Organization
118. National Psoriasis Foundation
119. National Recreation and Park Association
120. National Safety Council
121. National Tuberculosis Controllers Association
122. National University of Health Sciences
123. National Youth Advocacy Coalition
124. Nemours Health and Prevention Services
125. New York Academy of Medicine
126. New York State Nutrition Council
127. Partners for a Healthy Nevada
128. Partnership for Prevention
129. PE4life
130. Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.
131. Prevent Blindness America
132. Prevention Institute
133. Public Health Foundation
134. Researchers against Inactivity-related Disorders (RID)
135. Renal Physicians Association
136. RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
137. Service Employees International Union
138. Samuels and Associates

139. Shaping America's Health
140. Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
141. Society for Adolescent Medicine
142. Society for Prevention Research
143. Society for Public Health Education
144. Society of Behavioral Medicine
145. Society of General Internal Medicine
146. Special Olympics, Inc.
147. Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
148. State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association
149. The AIDS Institute
150. The Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
151. The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
152. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
153. The Praxis Project
154. TII CANN - Title II Community AIDS National Network
155. Trust for America's Health
156. VSP Vision Care
157. United Fresh Produce Association
158. United States Tennis Association
159. United States Water Fitness Association
160. Washington Health Foundation - Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign
161. YMCA of the USA