

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
B-2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Chairman Tiahrt:

As a bipartisan group of Members of Congress committed to strengthening our nation's health-focused prevention efforts, we respectfully request that you continue to increase the priority given to public health, prevention and wellness funding in the Fiscal Year 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill. As you know, President Obama's recent FY2011 budget request to Congress proposes a cut of more than \$130 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's core discretionary programs. To this end, we specifically ask that you reject that request and provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with a core program budget line of \$8.6 billion in federal fiscal year 2011.

Supporting proven research-based public health and prevention efforts saves lives, prevents needless disability and suffering, and helps to keep health care costs down. While the payback for public health funding may not always be seen in a five-year budget chart, we view increased funding for the CDC as a much-needed down payment on our nation's future health status. The CDC's mission requires that the agency take on a wide range of challenging and nationally important health, preparedness and safety issues. Few constituent letters are received in Washington that thank Congress for an illness that did not spread, a child who did not take up cigarettes or a child who did not acquire Type 2 diabetes because of a nutrition awareness campaign. Cutting back on prevention efforts like these fail to build upon the public health achievements and efforts currently in progress.

The CDC's health and wellness services reach and benefit our constituents right now. Nearly three quarters of the CDC's budget is goes out the door and is directed to health departments in our local cities and towns. Our communities depend on these funds to help keep our constituents safe, healthy and free from disease. Because local governments are already struggling to keep prevention programs funded, cuts to the CDC now will certainly threaten our nation's public health infrastructure; 35,000 to 40,000 jobs per state are reliant upon CDC funding.

Cutting prevention dollars now to balance a difficult budget will saddle future generations with costly health problems that can be prevented at a fraction of the cost today. We urge you to work with the Administration and across party lines to ensure that funding for the CDC's prevention efforts is increased. The CDC's work is far too critical to both the short- and long-term health of our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration.



JAMES MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



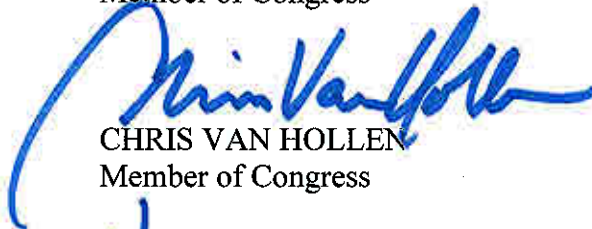
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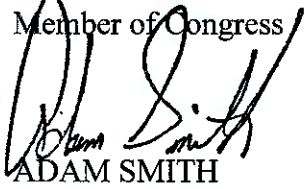
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