



News from Washington Archives: 2011

February 2011

CPH Tracks House FY11 CR & Obama FY12 Budget

This is clearly one of the most complex budget years in recent history. While Congress works to wrap-up a final FY11 spending measure, the Obama Administration has released their FY12 budget request to Congress.

On February 11, the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives introduced a Continuing Resolution which funds the federal government for the remainder of FY11. The House proposal includes \$5.743 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of which \$750 million is taken from the recently enacted Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The Administration, meanwhile, has requested Congress provide slightly more than \$7 billion for the agency in FY12.

The Campaign for Public Health crafted a chart comparing the various proposals currently under consideration. The chart compares the FY11 budget proposals to the enacted FY10 budget and to the President's proposed FY12 budget. Click [here](#) to view the chart.

Health Leaders Ask Congress to Protect Prevention

On February 17, CPH sent congressional leaders in both the House and Senate a letter focused on the budget of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The letter discusses how little is directed towards controlling and preventing disease and asks Congress not to cut or divert the Prevention and Public Health Fund. A bipartisan mix of 29 senior health leaders - including past CDC Directors, Surgeon Generals, an HHS Secretary, past members of Congress and several health commissioners joined the letter.

Click [here](#) to view this letter.

March 2011

Health Leaders Write to the Hill

On March 8, CPH's colleagues at ten big city health departments sent congressional leaders a letter opposing public health cuts included in the H.R. 1 Continuing Resolution (CR). The letter discusses how the proposed cuts would jeopardize our nation's disease control and prevention capabilities if the CR is enacted. Congress was also urged in the letter to not use the Prevention and Public Health Fund to supplant the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's budget. Both members of the House and Senate received the letter. To view the letter click [here](#).

April 2011

Three Major Blows to Public Health

The Campaign for Public Health applauds Congresswoman Roybal-Allard (CA-34) for her eloquent speech during the debate on HR 1217, a bill to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Her speech succinctly details the cuts that our impacting our nation's public health infrastructure.

As our readers know, the Continuing Resolution for FY11 will cut \$748 billion dollars from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's budget authority. This cut of 12 percent comes on top of major cut-backs at the state level which have already resulted 15,000 lost jobs in local health departments. Cutting the Prevention Fund would be the third major blow to our nation's efforts to protect the health of the population. The text of Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's speech is as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, HR 1217, which eliminates the Prevention Fund, is an attack on public health and prevention in this country.

The Prevention Fund is our first national proactive, strategic commitment to changing the focus of our health care system from one of treatment to one of keeping people healthy.

This change in focus is essential because keeping people healthy improves the quality of their lives and that of their family, and it is our best means of controlling preventable chronic diseases which account for 7 out of 10 deaths and 75 percent of our nation's annual health care costs totaling 1.7 trillion dollars.

If HR 1217 passes, we lose a critical opportunity to control health care costs and we lose the opportunity to reduce unnecessary suffering and death from preventable chronic diseases.

Adding to the assault of HR 1217 on public health and prevention is the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution which cuts CDC's budget by over \$700 million dollars.

The result of these proposals is that millions of Americans will needlessly continue to suffer from preventable chronic diseases, costly treatments and costly hospitalizations.

Prevention saves lives and prevention saves money. Defeat H.R. 1217 and continue to build a healthier America."

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Thanks NYT: More Press is Needed!

The Campaign for Public Health recently sent out an [e-alert](#) applauding the *The New York Times'* on their April 25th editorial "[So Much for That Ounce of Prevention](#)". A brief synopsis is provided discussing the impact of last year's health reform law on current disease control and prevention efforts. This editorial is very timely considering the lack of support for the Prevention Fund and the recent budget cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Thanks to the *Times* for emphasizing the need to bolster disease prevention efforts as a means to avoid dollars lost to treating easily preventable diseases.

June 2011

Tom Frieden Addresses Roundtable

Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), met with 23 prominent members of the health community at our *Public Health Leaders Roundtable* meeting on Thursday, June 9. In addition to thanking

The CPH Foundation for its ongoing work, he discussed the CDC's main priorities and future goals. He highlighted some of the contributions the CDC made to public health during his two year tenure, specifically detailing many of their key health protection successes. He concluded his remarks with a discussion of the FY2011 federal budget reductions and the future of funding for public health efforts.

Dr. Frieden's overview was followed by an open discussion with Roundtable members. A wide range of topics were covered, including the cost benefit of certain programs; the CDC's use of ever-changing technology; concerns with proposed budget cuts and the prioritization of preventive efforts; the positive implications of the CDC's current budget structure and the challenges the agency's 170 budget lines impose; the consolidation of certain efforts in various budget plans; how specific programs will be impacted by funding changes; and the critical role the Prevention and Public Health Fund now plays in supporting the work of the agency.

The final topic of discussion focused on identifying ways to communicate the fact that the CDC works toward goals nearly every American supports.

The intended speaker for the next Roundtable meeting will be a local health policy reporter.