State of Play on Prevention Fund and What’s Next

July 31, 2012

The Road Ahead for Public Health and the Prevention Fund: Action for the Summer Recess

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Protecting the Prevention Fund - overview

- Important victory in student loan rate increase debate.
- Activated base, strong showing of support with every Senate Democrat voting against repealing the Fund to pay for student loans.
- Veto threat from President, strong public statements from House and Senate Democratic leadership.
- Opportunity to better educate Members who will have to defend this vote.
- Continuing outreach to broaden base of support – including faith, education and disability communities.
Groundhog Day!

During the 112th Congress, the House has repeatedly (30+ times) sought to cut or eliminate the Prevention Fund. This year alone:

- 7/18/12 – A House Labor/HHS appropriations bill that includes the elimination of the Prevention Fund is approved in subcommittee.
- 7/11/12-- The House of Representatives approves the Repeal ObamaCare Act by a vote of 244-185 over the objections of a veto threat from President.
- 4/26/12 – The Interest Rate Reduction Act (HR 4628) was introduced, which would delay an increase in federal Stafford Direct Stafford Loan rates, offset by repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund. House voted 215-195 for passage
- 4/25/12 – The House Energy & Commerce Committee advanced a budget reconciliation measure which includes elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
- 2/22/12 – The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (HR 3630) became law, extending the payroll tax cut, unemployment benefits, and physician payment updates ("doc fix"), offset by a $6.25 billion cut to the Prevention and Public Health Fund.
But the tide is turning with firm opposition!

- Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid -- We “are opposed to shortchanging an important program that supports crucial efforts to prevent disease and protect against public health emergencies.”

- President Obama – “H.R. 4628 includes an attempt to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund, created to help prevent disease, detect it early, and manage conditions before they become severe. Women, in particular, will benefit from this Prevention Fund, which would provide for hundreds of thousands of screenings for breast and cervical cancer. This is a politically-motivated proposal and not the serious response that the problem facing America’s college students deserves. If the President is presented with H.R. 4628, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.”

- House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) – “To make matters worse, not only are they suggesting that we take the money from the prevention fund, the immunization and screening for breast cancer, and cervical cancer, and other women’s health issues, not only are they saying we should take the five or six billion dollars from there, they’re saying we should take the additional $5 billion that would be left in the account and repeal it – repeal it.”

- House Democratic Whip notice -- “The Prevention and Public Health Fund assists state and community efforts to prevent illness and promote health, so that all Americans can lead longer, more productive lives. Last year, funding went to 61 communities and states, benefitting 120 million people. Nearly 800 public health, prevention and other health and wellness advocates strongly oppose repeal of this fund.”
Building Broad Support From Multiple Sectors

- Over 760 local, state and national organizations (more than 60 in California alone), including hundreds of traditional public health groups, but also:
  - Unions – AFT, SEIU, AFSCME
  - Medical providers – American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Cardiology, American Nurses Association
  - National advocacy groups – AARP, USPIRG, Families USA
  - Policymakers – US Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties
  - Faith-based groups – National Council of Jewish Women, United Church of Christ, Ascension Health, Justice and Witness Ministries
Defending the Fund, Building Support and Fostering New Collaborations

- **Education**
  - Building bridges through ongoing school health-related efforts including the focus on better nutrition, promoting physical activity, school procurement policies/efforts and how it relates to kids who are better ready to learn.
  - Primarily educating key groups on the Fund, CTG’s and NPS and seeking support specifically on the Fund.
  - Recent focus: expanding outreach to include higher education, school leadership orgs and specialty schools (e.g. American Council on Education, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, NASBE, etc.)

- **Hispanic/Latino**
  - Expanding focus to health focused organizations in particular and working to strengthen existing relationships.
  - Engaging National Hispanic Medical Association, Latina Health Network, Alliance for Hispanic Health; and National Council of La Raza
Defending the Fund, Building Support and Fostering New Collaborations - continued

- **Faith-Based**
  - TFAH recently keynoted the Health Ministries Association Conference - which will help foster continue collaboration with the HHS Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Adventists, United Church of Christ, Lutherans, among others.
  - Goal is to better inform and engage on PPHF, CTG’s, and NPS and make linkages between existing work efforts on community benefit and community-based health/prevention related efforts.

- **Business**
  - Expand focus to include insurers and insurance interest groups (e.g. ACHP, AHIP).

- **Disability Community**
  - New partners & collaborations: The Arc, AHPA Disability Section, CCD Health Task Force, among others.
Identifying New Champions

- Working to expand number of members of Congress who vocally support the Fund.
- Organizing partner organizations for CEO-level meetings with Senate/House public health supporters in effort to elevate their level of engagement to Prevention Fund “champions” –
  - Participating organizations include: TFAH, American Heart Association, American Cancer Association Action Network, American Diabetes Association, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of City and County Health Officials, National Association of Counties, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, American Lung Association, American Public Health Association, Nemours, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, National Business Coalition on Health
  - Meetings have been held with Senators Brown (OH), Blumenthal (CT), Cardin (MD), Carper (DE), Coons (DE), Hagan (NC), Rockefeller (WV) and Udall (CO), and Representatives Capps (CA), Delauro (CT), Roybal-Allard (CA), Pallone (PA), and Van Hollen (MD)
- Members of Congress considering letters to White House, colloquys on House and Senate floors, dear colleague opportunities, “ribbon-cutting” opportunities back home. Outreach needed back home as well
CTG Messaging

- Preventing disease and injury by making healthy choices the easy choices is the most effective, common-sense way to improve health and reduce health costs for families and businesses.
- The Prevention and Public Health Fund gives us a chance to turn our sick care system into a health care system by bringing communities together on innovative projects that will help reverse the obesity epidemic and bring health costs down. Congress should not make any further attempts to reduce, eliminate or divert its funding.
- The Prevention Fund is the first federal funding source dedicated to public health and prevention. This year, the Fund will invest $1 billion in every state to allow communities to move forward on proven, effective ways to keep Americans healthier and more productive. Over the course of the next 10 years the Fund will invest a total of $12.5 billion in cross-cutting prevention programs that have the potential to transform our public health system.
- The Fund is supporting new programs such as Community Transformation Grants, a National Tobacco Education Campaign, and new strategies to reduce hospital associated infections. It is also supporting grants to allow every state to begin to build core, comprehensive capacity to address common risk factors and determinants of health.
Communicating Impact of Bigger Picture Cuts on Non-Defense Discretionary programs
Totals include awards to states, cities/counties, tribes, and partners ($358.8M). Awards to territories ($4.3M) are excluded.

1Programs included (16 total): National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII), Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Program (ELC), Emerging Infections Program (EIP), Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI), Immunization, Prevention Research Centers (PRCs), Public Health Prevention Research, Chronic Disease State Grants, Tobacco Quitlines, Community Guide, Public Health Workforce, Community Transformation Grants (CTG), Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO), and Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Centers (PERRCs) / Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLCs).
CDC Community Transformation Grant Awards

Type of Area Served
- Tribe or tribes (7)
- Territory (1)
- Large County (29)
- State (10)
- State Minus Large Counties (14)

Community and State Grantees: 61

Data Source: CDC/CCDPHP/DCH
Prevention and Public Health Fund Allocations (FY 2010 to 2022): Current Funding Under HR 3630 vs. Funding Established by ACA

- Funding Level As Established in ACA
- Current Funding Level, with Cuts to Fund Under HR 3630

Fiscal Year (2010 to 2022)
FY 2010-2012 CDC values are supplemented by the Prevention and Public Health Fund
** FY2012 value represents the HHS spending plan numbers for FY2012
*** FY2013 is based on the President's Budget Request

Updated 3/13/2012
Bending the Obesity Cost Curve:

REDUCING OBESITY RATES BY FIVE PERCENT COULD LEAD TO MORE THAN $29 BILLION IN HEALTH CARE SAVINGS IN FIVE YEARS

Keeping people healthier is one of the most common sense and effective ways to reduce health care costs.

Obesity is one of the biggest drivers of preventable chronic diseases and health care costs in the country. Twenty percent of Americans are either obese or overweight, and obesity is related to more than 30 illnesses, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and some forms of cancer.

The Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) and Move Health Smartly conducted an analysis to estimate how much the United States could save in health care costs if obesity rates were reduced by five percent. The analysis found that the country could save $29 billion in health care costs in five years, or $17 billion in 10 years.
What can you do?

- Public believes in prevention
  - Consistent polling data shows public believes prevention saves money and worth the investment even if it doesn’t save money
- Show members of Congress where the money is going – need for transparency on use of funding, and relationship-building by grantees with elected officials
  - Create relationships with elected officials
  - Give visibility to success stories in local media

Take at least one action:
- Join the supporters list for the PPHF &/or recruit other organizations
- Schedule in-district meetings with Members of Congress
- Take action online
- Send a letter
- Blog or write an op-ed/Letter-to-the-Editor
- Report back!
For more information

Visit www.healthyamericans.org/health-reform for health reform implementation information. Updated recess toolkit on the way

Can also contact rhamburg@tfah.org to sign up for our Digest on Wellness and Prevention in Health Reform

Thank you!