



April 16, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

On behalf of the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)--a national organization representing state and territorial maternal and child health program directors whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of all women, children, and families, including children and youth with special health care needs-- I am writing you in strong support of the Prevention and Public Health Fund and urge you to oppose any effort to reduce, eliminate or divert funding.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund represents a historic movement in the realm of public health to move us from a system of "sick care" to one of prevention and wellness. Providing quality affordable health care to all Americans is a necessary and fundamental step to improving health in America. However, the U.S. already spend close to twice as much per capita than the next closest country, yet lags behind many industrialized nations in the two key measures of infant mortality and life expectancy. To truly improve our national health outcomes while driving down health care costs, this investment must be protected to continue to promote the primary prevention of disease.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is critical to bringing effective programs to scale, reversing the erosion of vital public health programs and making new investments in the health of all Americans. States are already using the Fund to help control obesity, reduce tobacco use and improve nutrition. Coupled together these initiatives will lead to vast improvements in maternal health and birth outcomes. For example, if we are able to reverse the costly and serious trend of preterm birth rate in this country and cut it in half this would save an estimated \$13 billion dollars. More importantly, this would save the lives of thousands of babies and would itself cover the costs of the Fund.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and state and local health departments have the infrastructure and expertise already in place to combat gestational diabetes, infant mortality, childhood obesity, injury and smoking. However, due to chronic underfunding these entities were unable to fully implement the promising research, programs and community interventions to ensure appropriate prevention as well as prompt diagnosis and treatment of a broad array of conditions and diseases. The new sustained mandatory funding stream afforded via the Fund will ensure timely intervention boosting federal and state capacity today, and will result in better health and cost savings in both the short and long term.



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On behalf of millions of women, infants and children AMCHP strongly urges you to fully support the original intent of the Fund and oppose any effort to reduce, eliminate, or divert funding of this vital investment in the near future and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Fraser", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Fraser, PhD
Chief Executive Officer