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*Protect, Prevent, Live Well*

August 3, 2010

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the public and our communities, I write to urge you to oppose the use of the Prevention and Public Health Fund, created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), as an offset for an amendment by Senator Mike Johanns (amendment number 4531) to the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act.

With the passage of ACA, Congress made a historic investment in changing our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy. One important provision designed to support that change is the creation of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. As required under ACA, this fund will be used to implement evidence-based community health promotion and prevention activities to address chronic disease rates that will measurably improve the health of the nation and control costs. Claims that this funding will be used for any other purpose are misguided and unfounded.

This year, funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund is being put to use in communities across the country to address key public health issues such as tobacco cessation and efforts to reduce obesity by encouraging better nutrition and increased physical activity. The funding will also be used to strengthen state and local public health infrastructure, support data collection and analysis for community-based and clinical-based prevention activities and to expand and improve training for the public health workforce.

We urge you to oppose efforts to use the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset for Senator Johanns' amendment and any future efforts to overturn the important prevention and wellness provisions included in ACA. The health of the American public depends on your support for strong public health and prevention programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)  
Executive Director