

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0505

December 10, 2012

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As members of California's Congressional delegation, we respectfully write to you to express our support for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Fund) and encourage you to protect the Fund as deficit reduction negotiations continue.

As you know, today the Fund is supporting critical investments in innovative, evidence-based activities in all 50 states, including California, and represents our nation's only focused, dedicated investment to keeping Americans healthy before they develop burdensome and costly illness and disease. It also is one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act aimed at lowering health care costs.

Our state is benefiting greatly from the Fund, and its focus on evidence-based interventions to keep people healthy. California has already received more than \$90.6 million in Prevention Fund grants to strengthen the public health system and address the major risk factors for chronic disease. For example, the Fund made it possible to award a \$9.8 million Community Transformation Grant (CTG) to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to address the known common factors contributing to expensive preventable disease: heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. Similarly, San Diego received a \$3 million CTG award which, among other things, will help up to 2.9 million people control high blood pressure and cholesterol in healthcare and workplace settings by 2016. And both the San Francisco Department of Public Health and California-based Public Health Institute are receiving funds to expand efforts in tobacco-free living, active living and healthy eating, while building healthy and safe physical environments.

The Fund is also working in statewide and nationally to further declines in smoking rates. During the first week of CDC airing its *Tips from Former Smokers* campaign, supported by the Fund, California saw dramatic spikes in the number of calls to 1-800-QUIT NOW, with a 300 percent increase during just the first week of the campaign. And more and more Californians will benefit from funds to strengthen the state's public health departments through proven prevention efforts like improving access to vaccines.

Combined, these evidence-based, targeted prevention programs can have a large impact on both the physical health of Californians and the fiscal health of our state. In fact, a recent analysis

included as part of Trust for America's Health *F as in Fat 2012* report concluded that reducing average body mass index (BMI) by just five percent over the next five years could save \$28 billion in California alone by 2020 and avoid 420,000 cases of type 2 diabetes, over 29,000 cases of cancer, 320,000 cases of cardiovascular disease, and 209,000 cases of arthritis.

Our nation faces difficult fiscal decisions in the coming months; however prevention is the key to lowering health care costs and creating a long-term path to a healthier society and economically sound health system in California and across America. We thank you for your ongoing support, including the issuance of a Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 4628, the Interest Rate Reduction Act, which highlighted the importance of the Fund, and its benefits to women, and look forward to working with you to maintain our investment in the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Sincerely,

  
DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress

  
LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress

  
LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD  
Member of Congress

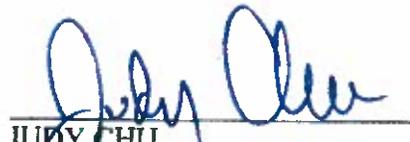
  
HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress

  
BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

  
LORETTA SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

  
MAXINE WATERS  
Member of Congress

  
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  
Member of Congress

  
JUDY CHU  
Member of Congress

  
JERRY McNERNEY  
Member of Congress

*Linda T. Sanchez*

LINDA T. SANCHEZ  
Member of Congress

*Janice Hahn*

JANICE HAHN  
Member of Congress

*Joe Baca*

JOE BACA  
Member of Congress

*Lynn Woolsey*

LYNN C. WOOLSEY  
Member of Congress

*John Garamendi*

JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress