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Impact of Legislation to End the Prevention and Public Health Fund

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Democratic Staff

Investments in public health and disease prevention make our country healthier and more productive. These investments are some of the most cost-effective interventions in health and health care, with every \$1 spent in proven community-based programs yielding an estimated return of \$5.60.¹ The landmark Affordable Care Act established the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which provides \$1 billion in each of FY 2012, 2013, and 2014 (and \$13.5 billion total for FY 2012-FY 2022) to state and local public health entities for activities to address key health risk factors such as preventing smoking and tobacco use, increasing physical activity, and improving nutrition; and to strengthen state and local public health infrastructure.

Legislation to repeal the Prevention and Public Health Fund would have a significant impact in Tennessee and in Representative Blackburn's district, endangering millions of dollars in funding, and minimizing the ability for communities to address critical public health problems.

The impact of such legislation in Tennessee and in Rep. Blackburn's district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, Tennessee has received \$15.1 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.²
- **Impeding progress that counties within Tennessee can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. Blackburn's district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors³</u> <u>(of 95 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁴</u> <u>(of 95 total counties)</u>
Cheatham	15	17
Chester	36	7
Davidson	26	14
Decatur	53	76
Dickson	23	47
Fayette	20	13
Hardeman	92	64
Hardin	39	80
Henderson	75	51
Hickman	48	74

¹ Trust for America's Health, *Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities*, online at <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention08/Prevention08.pdf>

² Department of Health and Human Services, online at <http://www.healthcare.gov/center>

³ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Project*, online at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>. "Health factors" include well-established measures on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

⁴ *Ibid.* "Health outcomes" include well-established measures on mortality and morbidity.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors⁵</u> <u>(of 95 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁶</u> <u>(of 95 total counties)</u>
McNairy	51	72
Montgomery	38	15
Perry	85	63
Shelby	66	59
Wayne	42	23
Williamson	1	1

⁵ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Project*, online at <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>. “Health factors” include well-established measures on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

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