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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.<sup>1</sup> 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 North Carolina and in Representative Butterfield'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 North Carolina and in Rep. Butterfield's district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, North Carolina has received \$39 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.<sup>2</sup>
- **Impeding progress that counties within North Carolina can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. Butterfield's district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors<sup>3</sup></u> <u>(of 100 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes<sup>4</sup></u> <u>(of 100 total counties)</u>
Beaufort	53	56
Bertie	85	94
Chowan	51	49
Craven	27	32
Edgecombe	99	96
Gates	18	83
Granville	48	73
Greene	76	66
Halifax	97	98
Hertford	66	85

<sup>1</sup> 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>

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors (of 100 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes (of 100 total counties)</u>
Jones	77	71
Lenoir	86	88
Martin	84	86
Nash	72	65
Northampton	87	92
Pasquotank	50	40
Perquimans	32	45
Pitt	34	52
Vance	95	93
Warren	88	87
Washington	71	60
Wayne	58	59
Wilson	78	70