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Impact of Legislation to End the Prevention and Public Health Fund

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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 Massachusetts and in Representative Markey'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 Massachusetts and in Rep. Markey's district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, Massachusetts has received \$42.7 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.²
- **Impeding progress that counties within Massachusetts can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. Markey's district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors³</u> <u>(of 14 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁴</u> <u>(of 14 total counties)</u>
Middlesex	3	3
Suffolk	12	13

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.