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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 Arkansas and in Representative Ross' 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 Arkansas and in Rep. Ross' district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, Arkansas has received \$13.8 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.²
- **Impeding progress that counties within Arkansas can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. Ross' district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors³</u> <u>(of 75 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁴</u> <u>(of 75 total counties)</u>
Ashley	67	59
Bradley	51	36
Calhoun	43	57
Chicot	74	72
Clark	5	7
Cleveland	27	22
Columbia	21	32
Dallas	54	74
Desha	68	66
Drew	59	53

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 Factors³</u> <u>(of 75 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁴</u> <u>(of 75 total counties)</u>
Garland	23	37
Grant	35	21
Hempstead	56	42
Hot Spring	31	30
Howard	42	18
Jefferson	64	50
Lafayette	39	48
Lincoln	49	45
Little River	20	51
Logan	32	41
Miller	61	40
Montgomery	34	25
Nevada	52	68
Ouachita	33	69
Pike	47	5
Polk	46	43
Scott	53	15
Sevier	58	35
Union	28	65