



April 2012

## 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 Virginia and in Representative Griffith'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 Virginia and in Rep. Griffith's district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, Virginia has received \$20 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.<sup>2</sup>
- **Impeding progress that counties within Virginia can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. Griffith's district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors<sup>3</sup></u> <u>(of 131 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes<sup>4</sup></u> <u>(of 131 total counties)</u>
Alleghany	52	100
Bland	55	88
Buchanan	129	129
Carroll	102	79
Craig	61	63
Dickenson	115	128
Floyd	49	62
Giles	60	77
Grayson	95	73

<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<sup>5</sup></u> <u>(of 131 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes<sup>6</sup></u> <u>(of 131 total counties)</u>
Henry	118	123
Lee	117	108
Montgomery	26	32
Patrick	76	85
Pulaski	87	119
Roanoke	9	33
Russell	113	124
Scott	101	115
Smyth	107	109
Tazewell	103	126
Washington	62	86
Wise	120	122
Wythe	91	94
Bristol City	99	93
Covington City	97	121
Galax City	105	84
Norton City	Not Rated	Not Rated
Radford City	20	68

---

<sup>5</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>6</sup> *Ibid.* “Health outcomes” include well-established measures on mortality and morbidity.