

Dear Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee members,

On behalf of Prevention Institute, I am writing to strongly encourage the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee to vote against repealing Section 4002 of PPACA, the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Prevention Institute is a national organization dedicated to advancing the health and vitality of this country by focusing on comprehensive policies and practices that will *prevent* people from getting sick and injured. Repealing Section 4002 and rescinding the mandatory appropriations to the Fund would be a significant step backward not only for the health of communities across the country, but also for our economy. The Fund invests in prevention and public health initiatives that have demonstrated success in keeping people healthy and injury free *in the first place* thereby reducing the need for costly treatment and intervention. In a country where some of the greatest costs to our workforce and our economy come from chronic disease and injury, investing in prevention is the only solution. Investments in disease prevention, such as those supported by Section 4002, have historically received bipartisan support and are consistently popular with the public and employers alike.

Similar investments in disease prevention, made possible by the Communities Putting Prevention to Work initiative supported by the stimulus, are improving the health of communities in many of the Health Subcommittee members' home states right now. In Chairman Joe Pitts' state of Pennsylvania, for example, nearly 500 corner stores in Philadelphia have been recruited into the Healthy Corner Store Initiative and some local businesses have received resources for equipment upgrades, shelving and refrigeration to sell produce, low-fat dairy products, and lean meats through the initiative. These steps will help to ensure that everyone in Philadelphia can access the types of foods that support health. Community prevention efforts--from building safe and accessible spaces for physical activity to farmers' markets--are essential to saving money and lives. Section 4002 of PPACA would support these efforts in communities across the country.

We urge the Health Subcommittee to vote against the repeal of Section 4002, which is essential for improving the health of communities and strengthening our health system.

Sincerely,

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