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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 West Virginia and in Representative McKinley'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 West Virginia and in Rep. McKinley's district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, West Virginia has received \$9.9 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.<sup>2</sup>
- **Impeding progress that counties within West Virginia can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. McKinley's district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors<sup>3</sup></u> <u>(of 55 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes<sup>4</sup></u> <u>(of 55 total counties)</u>
Barbour	35	34
Brooke	33	29
Doddridge	28	9
Gilmer	37	45
Grant	20	10
Hancock	17	19
Harrison	7	28
Marion	10	18
Marshall	27	14
Mineral	9	16

<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 55 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes<sup>6</sup></u> <u>(of 55 total counties)</u>
Monongalia	1	2
Ohio	5	12
Pleasants	8	8
Preston	23	22
Ritchie	30	30
Taylor	22	17
Tucker	16	3
Tyler	24	26
Wetzel	38	27
Wood	11	20

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<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.