



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 \$5.60.¹ 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 Washington and in Representative McMorris Rodgers' 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 Washington and in Rep. McMorris Rodgers' district includes:

- **Eliminating critical investments in public health and prevention.** Since 2010, Washington has received \$21.6 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.²
- **Impeding progress that counties within Washington can make in responding to factors that contribute to poor health and premature death.** In 2012, here is how each county within Rep. McMorris Rodgers' district scored.

<u>County</u>	<u>Rank on Health Factors³</u> <u>(of 39 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁴</u> <u>(of 39 total counties)</u>
Adams	36	20
Asotin	22	34
Columbia	16	16
Ferry	37	39
Garfield	13	19
Lincoln	19	28
Okanogan	33	37
Pend Oreille	27	30

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 Factors⁵</u> <u>(of 39 total counties)</u>	<u>Rank on Health Outcomes⁶</u> <u>(of 39 total counties)</u>
Spokane	15	25
Stevens	32	29
Walla Walla	6	18
Whitman	2	4

⁵ 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.

⁶ *Ibid.* “Health outcomes” include well-established measures on mortality and morbidity.