

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1381

Expressing the sense of the House that there should be an increased Federal commitment prioritizing prevention and public health for all people in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. CASTLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House that there should be an increased Federal commitment prioritizing prevention and public health for all people in the United States.

Whereas the United States has the highest rate of preventable deaths among 19 industrialized U.N. nations and lags behind 28 other U.N. nations in life expectancy;

Whereas various research studies suggest that nearly 60 percent of premature deaths in the United States are attributable to environmental conditions, social circumstances, and behavioral choices that could be addressed through prevention;

Whereas of the more than \$2,200,000,000,000 in health care spent nationally in the United States every year, more

than any other nation in the world, less than 4 cents out of every dollar is spent on prevention and public health;

Whereas chronic diseases are the leading causes of preventable death and disability in the United States, accounting for 7 out of every 10 deaths and killing more than 1,700,000 people in the United States every year;

Whereas these often preventable chronic diseases account for 75 percent of health care spending in the United States, including more than 96 cents out of every dollar spent in Medicare and more than 83 cents out of every dollar spent in Medicaid;

Whereas these chronic diseases cost the United States an additional \$1,000,000,000,000 each year in lost productivity, and are a major contributing factor to the overall poor health that is placing the Nation's economic security and competitiveness in jeopardy;

Whereas the number of people with chronic conditions is rapidly increasing, and it is estimated that if we do not intervene now that by 2025 nearly half of the population will suffer from at least one chronic disease;

Whereas current research has shown that increasing to 90 percent the use of just 5 preventive services, including—

(1) the portion of adults who take aspirin daily to prevent heart disease;

(2) the portion of smokers who are advised by a health professional to quit and are offered medication or other assistance;

(3) the portion of adults age 50 and older who are up to date with any recommended screening for colorectal cancer;

(4) the portion of adults age 50 and older immunized against flu annually; and

(5) the portion of women age 40 and older who have been screened for breast cancer in the past 2 years, would save more than 100,000 lives each year in the United States; and

Whereas research has shown that investing in community-level interventions that promote and enable proper nutrition, increased access to physical activity, and smoking cessation programs can prevent and mitigate chronic diseases, improve quality of life, increase economic productivity, and reduce health care costs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that in order to reduce the dis-
3 ease burden and health care costs associated with
4 preventable disease and injury, it is imperative that
5 this Nation strengthen its public health system to—

6 (A) provide all persons in the United
7 States with the information, resources, and en-
8 vironment they need to make healthier choices
9 and live healthier lives; and

10 (B) protect all people in this country from
11 health threats beyond their control, such as bio-
12 terrorism, natural disasters, infectious disease
13 outbreaks, and environmental hazards;

14 (2) commits to creating public health strategies
15 to eliminate health disparities and improve the

1 health of all people in the United States, regardless
2 of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status;

3 (3) supports the prioritizing of public policies
4 focusing on the prevention of disease and injury, and
5 calls for community-based programs to support
6 healthy lifestyles, including those that promote prop-
7 er nutrition and increased access to physical activity;

8 (4) urges the expansion of the 5 prevention
9 strategies of daily aspirin therapy, smoking ces-
10 sation, colorectal cancer screening, annual flu immu-
11 nizations, and breast cancer screening that can save
12 more than 100,000 lives each year;

13 (5) believes that the congressional budget proc-
14 ess should reflect the significant savings associated
15 with investments in prevention of disease and injury,
16 and therefore strongly encourages the Congressional
17 Budget Office to consider the health care savings as-
18 sociated with reduced chronic disease burden due to
19 clinical and community preventive services and pro-
20 grams when formulating its health care cost esti-
21 mates; and

22 (6) pledges to helping the United States be the
23 healthiest nation by supporting an increased invest-
24 ment in Federal public health programs to at least

- 1 1 percent of total Federal spending within 5 years
- 2 of the passage of this resolution.

