

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 571

To fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2021

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Health Funding
5 Prevents Pandemics Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Prevention and Public Health Fund
9 (section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Afford-

1 able Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11)) was designed
2 “to provide for expanded and sustained national in-
3 vestment in prevention and public health programs
4 to improve health and help restrain the rate of
5 growth in private and public health care costs”.

6 (2) Funding under such section is essential to
7 core efforts at the Department of Health and
8 Human Services and in State, local, Tribal, and ter-
9 ritorial health departments to prevent and control
10 the spread of infectious disease and prevent injuries
11 and the development of chronic conditions.

12 (3) Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars
13 support evidenced-based investments in tobacco use
14 prevention and cessation, nutrition, mental health,
15 childhood lead poisoning prevention, elder care ini-
16 tiatives, and immunizations, among other prevention
17 initiatives. Funding gives States and communities
18 the flexibility to respond to public health threats
19 that may be unique to their communities and bol-
20 sters the State, local, Tribal, and territorial response
21 to global public health threats, including COVID–19.

22 (4) Such prevention efforts have shown to be
23 effective. Funding increases for community-based
24 public health programs reduce infant deaths and
25 preventable deaths caused by cancer, diabetes, and

1 cardiovascular disease. Every dollar spent on preven-
2 tion saves nearly \$6 in health spending and every
3 dollar spent on childhood vaccines saves \$16.50 in
4 future health care costs.

5 (5) Investments in prevention reduce the cost of
6 health care in the United States. \$2,900,000,000 in
7 investments in community-based disease prevention
8 is estimated to save \$16,500,000,000 annually with-
9 in 5 years.

10 (6) Cuts to the Prevention and Public Health
11 Fund and other public health prevention efforts un-
12 dermine efforts to create an affordable and acces-
13 sible health care system, and a better quality of life
14 for Americans.

15 (7) Cuts to the Prevention and Public Health
16 Fund endanger the ability of States and localities to
17 distribute vaccines and public health information
18 successfully. The Prevention and Public Health
19 Fund is critical to the growth of the Centers for
20 Disease Control and Prevention's immunization pro-
21 gram under section 317 of the Public Health Service
22 Act and to the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capac-
23 ity program.

24 (8) Restoring Prevention and Public Health
25 Fund funding to \$2,000,000,000 annually will allow

1 the Fund to invest in more innovative, evidence-
 2 based public health programs and maintain and ex-
 3 pand investments in programs with demonstrated
 4 success.

5 (9) Restoring Prevention and Public Health
 6 Fund funding to \$2,000,000,000 will give the Cen-
 7 ters for Disease Control and Prevention and State,
 8 local, Tribal, and territorial health departments the
 9 funding that they need to invest in prevention ef-
 10 forts that will help the United States avoid future
 11 pandemics and epidemics.

12 **SEC. 3. PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.**

13 Section 4002(b) of the Patient Protection and Af-
 14 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end
 16 “and”; and

17 (2) by striking paragraphs (5) through (9) and
 18 inserting the following:

19 “(5) for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year
 20 thereafter, \$2,000,000,000.”.

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