



Working Together for an Affordable Future

PRESS STATEMENT

June 1, 2012

Contact: Cristina Flores
202-638-7151

NCHC Praises Successful Defense of Prevention and Public Health Fund

Statement by President and CEO John Rother on recent developments regarding legislative proposals to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund

"The Senators and Representatives who stood up for the Prevention and Public Health Fund deserve commendation for their efforts. It now appears that proposals to eliminate the Fund have been decoupled from must-pass legislation regarding student loans.

Although budget and health care politics could again threaten these necessary investments in the future, the Prevention and Public Health Fund and other prevention programs deserve the support of every policymaker who is concerned about the rising cost of health care.

With chronic diseases like obesity, cancer, heart disease and diabetes generating \$1.9 trillion in national health spending last year, investing in prevention just makes sense. Every 1% reduction in tobacco use [yields \\$22.4 billion in savings](#). Merely preventing further growth in obesity rates [would save \\$550 billion over two decades](#).

The Prevention Fund helps people and communities in all fifty states shoulder the responsibility of preventing chronic disease before patients need costly and avoidable hospital and emergency room care. Other prevention programs funded through the discretionary CDC budget contribute to the same goal, reducing the burden of disease and health costs immediately and in the long term."

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The National Coalition on Health Care, the oldest and most diverse group working to achieve comprehensive health system reform, is a 501(c)(3) organization representing more than 80 participating organizations, including medical societies, businesses, unions, health care providers, faith-based associations, pension and health funds, insurers and groups representing consumers, patients women, minorities and persons with disabilities. Member organizations collectively represent – as employees, members, or congregants – over 100 million Americans.

Some members of the National Coalition Health Care (NCHC) do not, or cannot, take positions either on specific legislation, strategies or on any policies outside their respective mission areas. However, all that can, do endorse broad policy positions in support of comprehensive health system change.