Principles of Health Reform

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), the medical specialty society representing physicians who dedicate their careers to disease prevention and health promotion at the health system level, has long advocated for a comprehensive and accessible healthcare system that focuses on prevention. As healthcare policy discussions continue in Congress, ACPM remains committed to advocating for a system that prioritizes the health and care of the American people. ACPM’s recommendations for any healthcare legislation are as follows.

Any new healthcare legislation must:

1. Retain coverage for all those currently insured;

2. Ensure a viable safety net that includes the continuation of the Medicaid expansion initiative;

3. Ensure patient protections in the insurance marketplace, including:
   a. Prohibitions on benefit caps;
   b. Prohibitions on discriminations against persons with pre-existing conditions;
   c. Premium assistance; and
   d. Reductions in out-of-pocket payments;

4. Require all insurance products provide first-dollar coverage for clinical preventive services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Women’s Preventive Services Initiatives, and Bright Futures;

5. Retain any current funding dedicated to prevention, such as the funds in the Prevention and Public Health Fund; and

6. Include funding to address the current shortage in preventive medicine physicians by increasing support for residency programs.

ACPM stands ready to support any plan that improves our nation’s health care system. ACPM has and will continue to work diligently on advancing disease prevention and health promotion in any future legislation.