



American College of Preventive Medicine

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ACPM Press Statement on Trump Administration's Budget

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)—the medical specialty society representing physicians who dedicate their careers to disease prevention and health promotion—is deeply concerned that the President's budget once again proposes to eliminate the sole source of federal support for our nation's preventive medicine residency training programs. The budget proposal, which targets funding at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), would weaken the country's ability to respond to and prevent the very diseases and health problems that burden our health system today.

"Preventive medicine physicians are vital to our healthcare system, with their work emphasizing prevention on issues spanning the opioid epidemic, natural disaster relief, and infectious and chronic diseases," said [Robert Carr, MD, MPH, FACPM](#), president of the American College of Preventive Medicine. "This budget proposal cuts funding to train physicians who specialize in preventive medicine at a time when we should be expanding, not constricting, our focus on disease prevention and health promotion, increasing the risks to our nation's health security."

The United States currently suffers from a shortage of physicians trained in public health and prevention, largely due to the limited availability of federal dollars to support preventive medicine residency training programs. Eliminating the program altogether is a drastic move that is short sighted and will not only endanger the lives of those afflicted with preventable diseases, but will lead to increased treatment costs for diseases that we know could have been prevented.

The President's budget also cuts funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by \$1.5 billion, including funding cuts for immunization and respiratory disease, chronic disease prevention and health promotion, and environmental health, among many other programs. This could not come at a worse time, as the rise of public health threats, from this season's deadly flu epidemic to drug-resistant infections, loom on the horizon. Decreasing our country's ability to respond to health crises will threaten lives and constrain the CDC's ability to protect our nation's health.

ACPM will continue its work to strengthen our nation's health system, and hopes that the Administration and Congress reverse course on this drastic budget in order to truly protect the citizens and health of this country.

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The American College of Preventive Medicine is a professional society providing leadership in research, professional education, development of public policy, and enhancement of standards of preventive medicine for and on behalf of its physician members. Uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health, preventive medicine specialists are equipped to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and population groups.