



American College of Preventive Medicine

ACPM Statement on the Trump Administration's 2020 Budget Proposal

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 for the third year in a row proposes to eliminate the "Public Health and Preventive Medicine" line item in the federal budget. This line item is the sole source of federal support for our nation's preventive medicine residency training programs.

Because preventive medicine residencies do not receive graduate medical education funding through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the continued training of our nation's preventive medicine specialists is predicated on the funding of the Public Health and Preventive Medicine line item. The budget proposal, which would remove this funding at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will weaken the country's ability to respond to and prevent the very diseases and health challenges that burden our health system.

"Training the next generation of preventive medicine physicians is critical to our healthcare system. In order to make progress in reducing healthcare spending we must support disease prevention and better understand the root causes of our population health trends. Real progress will be made when we engage in true prevention of disease, in order to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs" said [Robert Carr, MD, MPH, FACPM](#), president of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

"Financing of foundational preventive medicine and public health capabilities must be assured through sustainable, dedicated revenue streams. This budget proposal cuts such funding at a time when we should be expanding, not constricting, our focus on disease prevention, health promotion, and the public health infrastructure so critical to our nation's health security and economic competitiveness."

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 is a drastic and short-sighted move that will not only endanger the lives of those afflicted with preventable diseases, but will lead to increased treatment costs for diseases and other public health crisis that we know could have been prevented.

The President's budget also cuts funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by \$1.27 billion, including funding cuts for immunization and respiratory disease, chronic disease prevention and health promotion, environmental health, and public health preparedness and response. This could not come at a worse time, as the rise of public health threats, from the recent measles outbreak 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.

While we are disappointed in the proposed cuts in funding for many public health programs, we are glad to see that the President recognizes the important role of the National Violent Deaths Reporting System (NVDRS) in enabling public health officials to make evidence-based decisions in their construction of policies to prevent violent deaths. The proposed expanded funding of the NVDRS for FY2020 would ensure its continued application in all 50 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.



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

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