



American College of Preventive Medicine
physicians dedicated to prevention

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American College of Preventive Medicine Opposes Tap on Prevention and Public Health Fund to Finance “Doc Fix”

Washington, DC—Dec. 12, 2011—The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) opposes the tap of \$8 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to finance a two-year “doc fix” in the Medicare physician fee schedule as proposed in the “Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011,” introduced by Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the U.S. Congress. While ACPM has been a staunch proponent of efforts to fix the broken sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula used to calculate Medicare physician reimbursement levels, the College can not stand behind a perverse proposal that siphons funds away from programs that work to prevent disease in order to increase payments for the treatment of disease.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund – established through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – was created to infuse \$15 billion over 10 years toward proven strategies that promote health, prevent disease, and improve the overall value of our health care system. The rise in our nation’s health care spending has been fueled in large part by the rise in chronic illnesses, which are responsible for 7 out of 10 deaths among Americans each year and account for 75 percent of our total health care spending.

“As a preventive medicine physician, I want to improve the health of my community and as a clinician, I want to receive proper and adequate reimbursement for the services I provide to my patients,” said ACPM President Miriam A. Alexander, MD, MPH, FACPM. “But to limit my ability to promote the health of my community in order to bolster my reimbursement levels is akin to cutting funds for law enforcement to build bigger jails – it just doesn’t make sense.”

ACPM urges Congress to expand our nation’s investment in prevention to improve the health of our nation and the health of our economy. Numerous studies have established that a healthier

workforce leads to a more productive workforce and that investing in the health of Americans will improve the bottom line for businesses. The Prevention and Public Health Fund must be protected if we are serious about our efforts to improve health, reduce costs, and enhance the value of our health care system.

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About the American College of Preventive Medicine

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) is the national professional society for physicians committed to disease prevention and health promotion. ACPM was established in 1954. Its 2,500 members are engaged in preventive medicine practice, teaching and research. Specialists in preventive medicine are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health. They have the skills needed to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability and death in individuals and in population groups. For more information, visit www.acpm.org.