



For Immediate Release

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Groups Urge Protection of Prevention Fund in Budget Debate

WASHINGTON, DC - As policymakers deliberate the nation's debt ceiling and spending cuts, the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund has led a dozen groups in urging President Obama to oppose any effort to eliminate or reduce the Prevention and Public Health Fund. [The letter](#) was issued on the heels of a [proposal](#) recently presented by House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) to curb the Fund.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund — a key tool in combating the costly obesity epidemic— was created as part of the Affordable Care Act to support efforts by state and local governmental agencies and community organizations to increase healthy food options in schools, create physical activity programs and promote incentives for workplace wellness. “Any effort to repeal [the Fund] would be economically backwards,” the groups stated.

Last year, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported that nearly 20 percent of the increase in U.S. health care spending (from 1987-2007) was caused by obesity. Presently, obesity and its associated conditions cost taxpayers \$168 billion annually in medical costs alone. Researchers at Emory University found that obesity may account for 21 percent of all health care spending by 2018. Employers alone experience a more than \$73 billion loss each year due to losses in productivity, absenteeism and medical costs attributed to obesity, according to researchers at Duke University.

“As you labor to find solutions that will curb national spending,” the groups pressed, “we respectfully urge you to oppose any effort to eliminate or reduce the Prevention and Public Health Fund — a key tool in reducing the United States’ long-term health care costs.”

In addition to the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund, the letter was signed by American College of Preventive Medicine, American Heart Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, Defeat Diabetes Foundation, Directors of Health Promotion and Education, National Hispanic Medical Association, Partnership for Prevention, Public Health Foundation, Trust for America's Health and YMCA of the USA.

A copy of the letter may be found [here](#).

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About the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund

The Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund is dedicated to federal policy changes that can reverse one of America's costliest diseases. The Campaign convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to speak with one voice for measures to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.