Prevention and Public Health Fund

When you move to repeal the Affordable Care Act, you will also be repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which supplies our state with $17,183,464 each year.

If funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund is rescinded in FY17 $17,183,464 would be removed from our health agency’s budget essentially overnight, jeopardizing the health of our population.

Eliminating and rescinding the Prevention and Public Health Fund will also eliminate the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (Prevent Block), which was created through an initiative by President Reagan in 1982.

The programs that are funded by the Prevention and Public Health Fund were not authorized by the ACA, and many of these public health programs have existed decades before the passage of the ACA.

The public health programs funded through the Prevention and Public Health Fund were either entirely or partially moved from the CDC’s budget authority and were supplanted by the Fund. This was not something the public health community asked to have happen.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides $5,704,727 for chronic disease prevention each year in North Carolina, including obesity prevention and tobacco use prevention and cessation.

Obesity in North Carolina

- 30.1% of adults in North Carolina are obese
- 16.1% of children in North Carolina are overweight or obese.
- One in three children could develop diabetes in their lifetime.
- One in four are not healthy enough to serve in the military by the ages of 17 to 25.
- In North Carolina, the estimated total costs of eight risk factors related to overweight, obesity, and diabetes (excess weight, physical inactivity, type 2 diabetes, low fruit/vegetable intake, hypertension, high cholesterol, depression, and tobacco use) for adults is $54 billion.
- Diabetes alone costs North Carolina $17.6 billion each year in medical costs and lost employee productivity.
- 21% of US healthcare expenditures are obesity-related. This amounts to around $190 billion annually.
- Medicare & Medicaid spend approximately $62 billion annually on obesity-related costs.
- US employers lose about $164 billion annual productivity due to obesity-related issues with employees.

Tobacco Use in North Carolina

- 14,200 adults die each year from their own smoking in North Carolina.
- 62.8% of North Carolina tobacco uses tried to quit in 2015.
- 180,000 youth under 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking in North Carolina.
- Almost 3 in every 10 high school students are current tobacco users.
- Use of e-cigarettes by North Carolina high school students increased 888% between 2011 and 2015.
- Smoking costs North Carolina $3.81 billion in annual health care costs.
- Smoking costs North Carolina $4.24 billion in productivity losses each year.
- Almost one third of deaths from coronary heart disease are attributable to smoking and secondhand smoke.