

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1944

To fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2019

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Health Funding
5 Restoration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Prevention and Public Health Fund
9 (section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Afford-

1 able Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11) was designed
2 “to provide for expanded and sustained national in-
3 vestment in prevention and public health programs
4 to improve health and help restrain the rate of
5 growth in private and public health care costs”.

6 (2) Funding under such section is essential to
7 core efforts at the Department of Health and
8 Human Services and in local and State health de-
9 partments to prevent and control the spread of in-
10 infectious disease, and prevent injuries and the devel-
11 opment of chronic conditions.

12 (3) Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars
13 support evidenced-based investments in tobacco use
14 prevention and cessation, nutrition, mental health,
15 childhood lead poisoning prevention, elder care ini-
16 tiatives, and immunizations, among other prevention
17 initiatives. Funding gives States and communities
18 the flexibility to respond to public health threats
19 that may be unique to their communities.

20 (4) Such prevention efforts have shown to be
21 effective. Funding increases for community-based
22 public health programs reduce infant deaths and
23 preventable deaths caused by cancer, diabetes, and
24 cardiovascular disease. Every dollar spent on preven-
25 tion saves nearly \$6 in health spending and every

1 dollar spent on childhood vaccines saves \$16.50 in
 2 future health care costs.

3 (5) Investments in prevention reduce the cost of
 4 health care in the United States. \$2,900,000,000 in
 5 investments in community-based disease prevention
 6 is estimated to save \$16,500,000,000 annually with-
 7 in 5 years.

8 (6) Cuts to the Prevention and Public Health
 9 Fund and other public health prevention efforts un-
 10 dermine efforts to create an affordable and acces-
 11 sible health care system, and a better quality life for
 12 Americans.

13 (7) Restoring Prevention and Public Health
 14 Fund funding to \$2,000,000,000 annually will allow
 15 the Fund to invest in more innovative, evidence-
 16 based public health programs and maintain and ex-
 17 pand investments in programs with demonstrated
 18 success.

19 **SEC. 3. PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.**

20 Section 4002(b) of the Patient Protection and Af-
 21 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11(b)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end
 23 “and”; and

24 (2) by striking paragraphs (5) through (9) and
 25 inserting the following:

- 1 “(5) for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year
- 2 thereafter, \$2,000,000,000.”.

