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National Association of County & City Health Officials



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American College of Preventive Medicine



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE



American Public Health Association



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American Medical Student Association



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Community Health Centers



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE



astho™



Trust for America's Health
WWW.HEALTHYAMERICANS.ORG



April 20, 2011

The Honorable XX
XXX
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator ,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations we urge that you consider signing on to Sen. Tom Udall's "Dear Colleague" letter requesting level funding of \$10 million in FY 2012 for preventive medicine residency training programs. These funds may be used to provide federal support to existing residency training programs at a school of medicine, school of osteopathic medicine, school of public health, or state health department or may be utilized to help offset the costs of opening new programs at institutions that currently lack a preventive medicine residency training program.

In 1965, when the Medicare program was created, Congress deemed the training of our nation's physician workforce to be a "public good." As such, federal funding for physician residency training was directed to teaching hospitals to help offset the costs of training. Unfortunately, preventive medicine residents do not qualify for federal support because training occurs outside hospital-based settings. Both training programs and residency graduates are rapidly declining at a time of unprecedented national, state, and local need for properly trained public health physicians in public health, disease prevention, health promotion, disaster preparedness, quality improvement, and patient safety.

Fiscal year 2012 funding of \$10 million for preventive medicine residency training programs would boost to our nation's disease prevention and health promotion efforts by supporting residents who train in community settings around the country including state and local public health departments, healthcare organizations, community health centers, and other localities. Furthermore, it will facilitate the development of residency curricula which will equip health professionals in training with the skills required to address the increasing complex health challenges we face such as obesity, chronic disease, emerging

infectious diseases, and healthcare quality. Finally, preventive medicine physicians will undoubtedly be called upon to implement federal and state prevention and wellness strategies, and this funding will ensure the appropriate workforce is in place to translate prevention funding into clinical practice.

We thank you for recognizing the importance of preventive medicine physicians in improving America's public health infrastructure and urge that you join Sen. Tom Udall's "Dear Colleague" letter in support of \$10 million in FY 2012 funding for preventive medicine residency training programs.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Medical Association
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Medical Student Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Trust for America's Health