



American College of
Preventive Medicine

NEWS
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Contact: Paul Bonta
Associate Executive Director, Policy
202-466-2044, x110

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE APPLAUDS SENATE ACTION ON GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

Washington, DC – The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) applauds today’s passage of the “Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act,” H.R. 493, by the Congress. ACPM has long been a strong proponent of the legislation, which advocates for individuals’ protection against discrimination by health insurers and employers based on their genetic information.

“This landmark legislation will support new tools that can be employed by our nation’s preventive medicine physicians as they work to prevent disease in communities across the country. By promoting and protecting the appropriate use of genetic information we will add tremendous value to our nation’s public health system,” said ACPM President, Michael D. Parkinson, MD, MPH, FACPM.

Preventive Medicine physicians, who are trained in both clinical medicine and population medicine/public health, will increasingly use genetic testing in clinical practice and in public health to prevent disease and promote health through prenatal screening, carrier detection, early disease onset detection, and cancer typing and treatment. As biomedical research advancements in genetic testing are made, it is essential that the public be able to continue make full use of such information in the future. However, the full potential of genetic testing may be diminished if the public fears such information could negatively affect their health insurance coverage or employment opportunities.

ACPM is a strong advocate for policies that promote disease prevention in our healthcare system. Currently, ACPM is working with Congress to infuse the public health workforce with physician leaders by creating a stable federal funding source for preventive medicine residency training. Physicians training in the specialty of Preventive Medicine, despite being recognized as an underdeveloped national resource and in shortage for many years, are the only medical residents whose graduate medical education (GME) costs are not supported by Medicare, Medicaid or other third party insurers. The Institute of Medicine recently released a report, “Training Physicians for Public Health Careers,” which called for doubling of the current preventive medicine residency training pipeline.

The American College of Preventive Medicine is the national medical specialty society representing physicians committed to health promotion and disease prevention. Founded in 1954, ACPM provides leadership in research, professional education, development of public policy, and enhancement of standards of preventive medicine. In addition to physicians Board-certified in preventive medicine, ACPM’s members include physicians Board-certified in other medical specialties who have a strong interest in health promotion and disease prevention. For more information about ACPM, visit www.acpm.org.

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