



Leadership in the Science, Policy and Practice of Preventive Medicine

NEWS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Michael Barry, CAE
American College of Preventive Medicine
mbarry@acpm.org
(202) 466-2044, x106

LANDMARK HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATION PASSES CONGRESS WITH HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Washington, D.C. – The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), a leading organization of some of the country’s top physicians committed to preventing disease and promoting health, applauds Congress for passing a landmark health reform bill that elevates prevention and public health programs to the forefront of medicine. The legislation, the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” provides historic investments in local, state, and federal prevention and health promotion programs and seeks to strengthen our nation’s public health workforce.

“We thank Congress for its steadfast commitment to changing the status quo and for its pursuit of a health reform package that places prevention at the center of our health care system,” said ACPM President Mark B. Johnson, MD, MPH, FACPM. “This legislation will put prevention within the reach of every American, strengthen our communities by reducing preventable disease and disability, and provide our children with a strong foundation for lifelong health. Additionally, preventive medicine physicians will undoubtedly be needed to implement many of the prevention policies promoted in the bill, and this legislation makes an important investment in our preventive medicine physician workforce to ensure we have appropriately trained public health physicians in the field with the skill set necessary to translate prevention research into practice.”

ACPM has been a strong proponent of health reform and has worked in earnest to ensure patients have meaningful insurance coverage of appropriate clinical preventive services, patient barriers to preventive services are eliminated, and our federal commitment to prevention focused research is augmented to expand the evidence base for clinical and community-based preventive services. “ACPM is pleased to note that the health reform package adopted by Congress contains each of these essential elements, which combined will help save lives by placing a greater focus on disease prevention rather than disease treatment,” says Dr. Johnson.

ABOUT AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) is the national professional society for physicians committed to disease prevention and health promotion. ACPM was established in 1954. Its 2,400 members are engaged in preventive medicine practice, teaching and research. Specialists in preventive medicine are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health. They have the skills needed to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability and death in individuals and in population groups. To learn more about the College, visit <http://www.acpm.org/>.