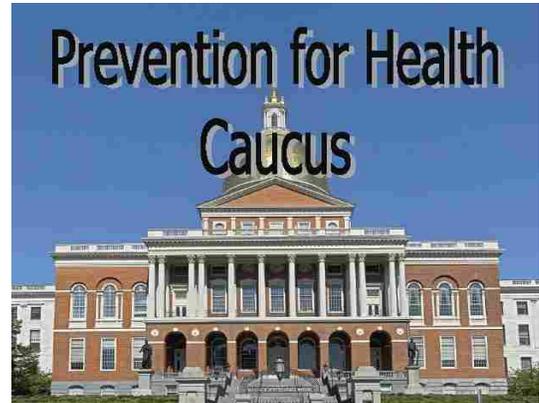




# About the Massachusetts Legislature's Prevention for Health Caucus

The Massachusetts Health Council is proud to have spurred the establishment in March 2011 of the Prevention for Health Caucus of the Massachusetts State Legislature.

In our continuing efforts to engage legislators in promoting prevention by experience, the Council has organized a Health Fair at the State House for legislators and their staffs.



*Here's what key legislators and health officials said about the Council's role:*

**Senator Richard Moore:**

*"As an example of their persistence, we now have a legislative Prevention Caucus here at the State House. This initiative was promoted by the Health Council to bring legislators the kind of information we need to make informed decisions that promote prevention and wellness to the residents of the Commonwealth."*

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**Senator Harriette Chandler:**

*"The Mass. Health Council dreamed a dream a long time ago. They were way ahead of the curve on the prevention issue and it took a while for the rest of us to catch up with the Mass. Health Council."*

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**Representative Jason Lewis:**

*"All of their expertise, all of their research on evidence-based strategies in prevention that are working today in Massachusetts... bringing that to the Caucus and helping us to educate our colleagues has been invaluable."*

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**John Auerbach, former Commissioner,  
MA Department of Public Health:**

*"[Representative Jason] Lewis was soon approached by the Massachusetts Health Council about taking one additional step: forming the legislature's first Prevention Caucus. The Council had been promoting the idea of such a caucus for years, searching for a legislator who would support it. Lewis was ultimately convinced that this, like the Trust, made sense particularly after learning that a strong and well-respected leader in the Senate, Harriette Chandler, wanted to join him as co-chair of the caucus. Lewis and Chandler organized regular educational sessions at the State House with the continuing support of the Council."*

# Rep. Lewis launches Prevention for Health caucus

Winchester Star -- Posted Apr 09, 2011 @ 09:00 PM

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/winchester/news/x1700910843/Rep-Lewis-launches-Prevention-for-Health-caucus>



*Rep Lewis is joined (right to left) by former Representative Mary Grant, Senator Harriette Chandler, Department of Public Health Commissioner John Auerbach, NECON Director Bert Yaffe and Massachusetts Health Council Director Susan Servais, for the launch of the Prevention for Health caucus at the State House on March 29. COURTESY PHOTO*

**Winchester, MA** — State Rep. Jason Lewis joined State Sen. Harriette Chandler in launching a new Prevention for Health Caucus in the Massachusetts legislature on March 29. The mission of this group is to help create a “culture of prevention” in Massachusetts, where the prevention of disease and the promotion of health, based on sound scientific evidence, is a top priority for policy makers and practitioners.

Healthcare costs are crippling the budgets of families, small businesses, municipalities and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A greater focus on preventive health measures can reduce the incidence of costly chronic diseases, like diabetes and heart disease, and help curb high healthcare costs.

“We launched this new Caucus to advocate for investments in proven prevention and public health programs that can improve health and reduce healthcare costs,” said Rep. Lewis. “As the legislature considers major reforms to our healthcare payment and delivery system designed to curb healthcare costs, we must ensure that prevention is part of the solution.”

More than fifty legislators, public health advocates and members of the public attended the event at the State House. They were joined by Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, Department of Public Health Commissioner John Auerbach, as well as state and local leaders who are working on the front lines of prevention and public health in the Commonwealth. They discussed the need to transform our current healthcare system from one which focuses on treating illness to a system that focuses instead on keeping people healthy and preventing disease.

Moving forward, the caucus will bring evidence-based information on public health and prevention to members of the legislature, and advocate for sound public policies that build healthier communities and contribute to lower healthcare costs.