



American College of Preventive Medicine

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ACPM Statement on Leaving Paris Climate Agreement

Washington, D.C. (June 8, 2017) The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), the medical specialty society representing physicians who dedicate their careers to disease prevention and health promotion, is disappointed in the President’s decision to withdraw the United States from the United Nation’s Paris Agreement. Climate change is a threat to the health of every population regardless of borders, and without the steps put forth by the agreement, the U.S. could face major setbacks in the strides we have made in the public health arena.

Nearly 200 countries have signed the agreement, signaling that climate change is a worldwide concern. Climate change increases the risk of epidemics in the U.S., including the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses. There is also evidence that climate change is increasing instances of bird flu, cholera, and Lyme disease. Chronic diseases such as asthma and heart disease have been increasing as a result of air pollution created by fossil fuel emissions.

“Now is not the time to reverse course on climate change,” stated Michael Barry, CAE, Executive Director of the American College of Preventive Medicine. “In the interest of public health and preventing the deadly epidemics and diseases that are worsened by climate change, the U.S. needs to remain vigilant in its commitment to cut emissions and fight climate change.”

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[The American College of Preventive Medicine](#) is a professional society providing leadership in research, professional education, development of public policy, and enhancement of standards of preventive medicine for and on behalf of its physician members. Uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health, preventive medicine specialists are equipped to understand and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and population groups.