



American College of
Preventive Medicine

Media Contact:
Kate McFadyen
Government Affairs Manager
kmcfadyen@acpm.org
202.466.2044x107

American College of Preventive Medicine Opposes the Prohibition of Scientific Terms

December 18, 2017 (Washington, D.C.) – In response to recent reports from *The Washington Post* that the Trump Administration is prohibiting or discouraging the use of specific words or phrases in the annual budget proposals submitted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other Health and Human Services departments, the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) opposes any efforts that suppress the use of appropriate and accurate scientific language used by federal agencies.

Discouraging the use of the words “vulnerable,” “entitlement,” “diversity,” “transgender,” “fetus,” “evidence-based,” and “science-based” is antithetical to the purpose of the CDC and other agencies tasked with protecting the health of the nation. The CDC is specifically charged with protecting people from public health threats by providing information, recommendations, and programs based on scientific investigation and research. The terms “evidence-based” and “science-based” precisely describe the CDC’s work and efforts to suppress their use may disrupt the agency’s impact and ultimately put more people at risk. Any attempt to stifle the use of appropriate language in the federal budget process is unacceptable.

Precise language is essential in science and health policy to ensure consistent and accurate understanding among various stakeholders tasked with setting and executing agendas. From preventing the next public health threat to addressing chronic disease epidemics and the opioid crisis, the public health sector needs clear and concise science-based language to have the greatest impact in as many communities as possible.

As Michael Barry, Executive Director of ACPM noted today, “Federal agencies that rely on science must be able to continue to function unhindered by political pressures that undermine the accuracy of their work. Public health professionals should be empowered—not held back—with so many critically important known and unknown health threats on the horizon.”

###

The [American College of Preventive Medicine](http://www.acpm.org) 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.