

1 Title: To fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of
2 prevention in the United States healthcare system.

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5 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
6 Congress assembled,

7 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

8 This Act may be cited as the “Public Health Funding Prevents Pandemics Act”.

9 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

10 Congress finds the following:

11 (1) The Prevention and Public Health Fund (section 4002 of the Patient Protection and
12 Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11) was designed “to provide for expanded and
13 sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health
14 and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public health care costs”.

15 (2) Funding under such section is essential to core efforts at the Department of Health
16 and Human Services and in State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments to prevent
17 and control the spread of infectious disease and prevent injuries and the development of
18 chronic conditions.

19 (3) Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars support evidenced-based investments in
20 tobacco use prevention and cessation, nutrition, mental health, childhood lead poisoning
21 prevention, elder care initiatives, and immunizations, among other prevention initiatives.
22 Funding gives States and communities the flexibility to respond to public health threats that
23 may be unique to their communities and bolsters the State, local, Tribal, and territorial
24 response to global public health threats, including COVID–19.

25 (4) Such prevention efforts have shown to be effective. Funding increases for
26 community-based public health programs reduce infant deaths and preventable deaths
27 caused by cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Every dollar spent on prevention
28 saves nearly \$6 in health spending and every dollar spent on childhood vaccines saves
29 \$16.50 in future health care costs.

30 (5) Investments in prevention reduce the cost of health care in the United States.
31 \$2,900,000,000 in investments in community-based disease prevention is estimated to save
32 \$16,500,000,000 annually within 5 years.

33 (6) Cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund and other public health prevention
34 efforts undermine efforts to create an affordable and accessible health care system, and a
35 better quality of life for Americans.

36 (7) Cuts to the Prevention and Public Health Fund endanger the ability of States and
37 localities to distribute vaccines and public health information successfully. The Prevention
38 and Public Health Fund is critical to the growth of the Centers for Disease Control and
39 Prevention’s immunization program under section 317 of the Public Health Service Act and
40 to the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity program.

1 (8) Restoring Prevention and Public Health Fund funding to \$2,000,000,000 annually will
2 allow the Fund to invest in more innovative, evidence-based public health programs and
3 maintain and expand investments in programs with demonstrated success.

4 (9) Restoring Prevention and Public Health Fund funding to \$2,000,000,000 will give the
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State, local, Tribal, and territorial health
6 departments the funding that they need to invest in prevention efforts that will help the
7 United States avoid future pandemics and epidemics.

8 **SEC. 3. PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.**

9 Section 4002(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11(b)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end “and”; and

12 (2) by striking paragraphs (5) through (9) and inserting the following:

13 “(5) for fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$2,000,000,000.”.