

### SOCIETY of BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Better Health Through Behavior Change

# **PROTECT CALIFORNIA**

#### PROTECT NIH FUNDING

National Institutes of Health (NIH) research saves lives. It helps prevent and treat cancer, obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. Half of U.S. adults suffer from one or more chronic diseases.

**NIH** research helps the economy. Every \$1 in NIH funding generates about \$2.21 in local economic growth. NIH-supported research adds \$69 billion to our annual GDP and supports 7 million jobs.

**But funding for NIH research is threatened.** Inflation and sequestration have cost the NIH more than \$6 billion in purchasing power since 2004. Less funding for research means:

- Slowdowns in developing new cancer drugs and finding effective strategies for preventing chronic diseases.
- The United States could lose its position as a world leader in science and technology. Scientific competitors like China are currently increasing their investments in research.
- Fewer jobs in every state in the nation and the loss of promising researchers to other career paths.

#### **NIH FUNDING BENEFITS CALIFORNIA**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) pumps billions of dollars into California's

economy and creates necessary medical research jobs.

California received \$3.8 billion NIH dollars in 2017, supporting 7,836 research projects.

Society of Behavioral Medicine members in California received NIH funding for:

- Development of an individualized, culturally-sensitive HPV vaccine education program for underserved communities. Incidence of cervical cancer in Los Angeles County is
  - significantly higher than the national average, with the highest rates occurring among low-income and minority communities, yet HPV vaccination uptake remains low.
- An innovative social media intervention to reduce smoking among sexual and gender minority populations. Sexual and gender minority young adults are disproportionately likely to smoke and experience the negative health effects of tobacco use, yet they face significant barriers to treatment and report lower levels of satisfaction with treatment they have access to.



The Society of Behavioral Medicine is a 2,400-member organization of scientific researchers, clinicians, and educators. They study interactions among behavior, biology, and the environment, and translate findings into interventions that improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

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#### PROTECT PREVENTION FUNDING

The health care system usually treats people after they become sick. More, however, can be done to *prevent* disease onset.

The nonpartisan Society of Behavioral Medicine and National Prevention Council are shifting the focus to prevention. The council's National Prevention Strategy seeks to "improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities by moving the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness."

86% of America's health care dollars are spent treating preventable chronic conditions—yet only 3% of health care dollars go toward prevention.

We need more than a strategy. Prevention funding, like the U.S. Prevention and Public Health Fund, must be protected and increased. The public agrees—76% of Americans support increased funding for prevention programs.



The Prevention Fund supports services and programs that reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity, and improve nutrition, sparing millions of Americans the suffering and loss of life associated with obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other preventable diseases. But more must be done—such preventable diseases continue to cause 70% of U.S. deaths and cost \$1.3 trillion in treatment costs and lost productivity every year. Lives—and dollars—can be saved through prevention.

#### **CALIFORNIA NEEDS PREVENTION**

## Many California adults suffer from preventable chronic conditions:

- 24% are obese.
- 173,000 get diagnosed with cancer annually.
- 10% have diabetes.
- 29% have high blood pressure.

#### The U.S. Prevention Fund is helping!

Statewide the fund is improving access to vaccines, bettering the physical health of adults with serious mental illness, and ensuring more women get breast and cervical cancer screenings. Local communities are benefiting too.

 Mandela Marketplace received \$500,000 to improve access to healthy food and beverage options in Alameda County, where high percentages of African Americans report eating fast food three or more times per week. Funds will incentivize new grocery store development, expand mobile produce stands, and increase the availability and affordability of healthy foods in schools.

Protect prevention funding—American lives depend on it.