Partnership for Prevention®
Shaping Policies • Improving Health

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November 6, 2009

Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
US House of Representatives
H-107 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

I wanted you to know that Partnership for Prevention strongly supports the prevention provisions of HR 3962, the "Affordable Health Care for America Act."

As an organization of business, nonprofit and government leaders committed to making evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion a national priority, Partnership for Prevention believes keeping Americans healthy and preventing disease must be an integral part of any health reform legislation We know that providing access to quality, affordable medical care will not, by itself, rein in the ballooning health care costs that threaten to overwhelm our economy. Only through a vigorous commitment to health promotion and disease prevention can our nation be successful in reducing the incidence of chronic disease.

We agree with President Obama when he said: *"in the absence of a radical shift towards prevention and public health, we will not be successful in containing medical costs or improving the health of the American people."* We believe the provisions of HR 3962 establishing a dedicated national trust fund for prevention, wellness and public health will enable thousands of U.S. communities to help citizens quit tobacco, become more physically active, and reduce their risk of life-threatening diseases. Only by addressing these primary drivers of poor health and high health care costs can we foster community environments that will enable American families to support healthy behaviors and healthy choices.

A national investment in community prevention is money well spent. The dedicated fund created by HR 3962 would support community prevention at levels sufficient to address national need. The passage of this important legislation will be an important and historic signal by the Congress that REAL health reform starts with prevention.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Gould, PhD
President & CEO