

**RESOLUTION 3 - 2010**

Subject: Public Health Funding  
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Referred to: Health Care Coverage and Access

1 Whereas, State and local health departments, while not the only entities interested in or  
2 committed to prevention and health protection, are *cornerstones* of developing healthy and safe  
3 communities; and

4  
5 Whereas, There is broad consensus that evidence-based preventive services,<sup>1</sup> reduce the burden of  
6 injury and disease, improve quality of life and offer high economic value; and

7  
8 Whereas, According to a 2009 poll<sup>23</sup> commissioned by the Trust for America’s Health and the  
9 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research and  
10 Public Opinion Strategies, Americans rank prevention as the most important health care reform  
11 priority, and overwhelmingly support increasing funding for prevention programs to reduce  
12 disease and keep people healthy; and

13  
14 Whereas, According to America’s Health Rankings,<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin ranks 50<sup>th</sup> among states in dollars  
15 spent on public health per capita;<sup>5</sup> and

16  
17 Whereas, According to a 2009 analysis by the National Association of City and County Health  
18 Officials,<sup>6</sup> health departments nationwide are eliminating or reducing vital programs because of  
19 staffing and budget reductions as a result of the recession; and findings show that local health  
20 departments—the front line protecting the public’s health—are severely strained by increasing  
21 budget and workforce cuts to the point that they are being forced to eliminate or reduce vital  
22 programs; and

23  
24 Whereas, Public health workers are being asked to do “more with less” at a time when both the  
25 economies of reducing health care costs through investment in prevention, and the public’s  
26 support for investment in prevention are apparent; therefore be it

27  
28 RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Medical Society supports policy that provides additional  
29 resources for evidence-based prevention activities and programs provided by health departments  
30 in Wisconsin; and be it further

31  
32 RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Medical Society supports efforts by the Governor’s office, the  
33 Governor’s Public Health Council, the Wisconsin Legislature, and others to examine new ways in  
34 which Wisconsin’s health departments can be better financially supported with a goal of at least  
35 achieving a rank near the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for national public health per capita spending.

Fiscal note: Within current budget if replaces existing legislative priority.

References:

<sup>1</sup> *The Community Guide: What Works to Promote Health*. [www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html). This guide was developed by The Task Force on Community Preventive Services, an independent, nonfederal, volunteer body of experts appointed by the Director of CDC.

<sup>2</sup> *Americans Rank Prevention as Most Important Health Reform Priority*, <http://healthyamericans.org>

<sup>3</sup> *America's Health Rankings*, United Health Foundation, <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/yearcompare/2008/2009/WI.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> The public health funding per capita measure is defined as, "State funding dedicated to public health as well as federal funding directed to states by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration, expressed on a per capita basis. This represents the annual investment being made in public health programs to monitor and improve population health."

<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/2009/component/definition.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> *Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts*, Research Brief, November 2009, National Association of County & City Health Officials

## Relevant Policies

### Society:

#### PUB-003

**Full Funding for Core Public Health Services:** The Wisconsin Medical supports full state funding for core public health service functions that are delegated to local public health departments. (HOD, 0407)

### AMA:

#### H-440.892 Bolstering Public Health Preparedness

Our AMA supports: (1) the concept that enhancement of surveillance, response, and leadership capabilities of state and local public health agencies be specifically targeted as among our nation's highest priorities; and (2) in principle, the funding of research into the determinants of quality performance by public health agencies, including but not limited to the roles of Boards of Health and how they can most effectively help meet community needs for public health leadership, public health programming, and response to public health emergencies. (Sub. Res. 407, I-01)

#### H-440.954 Revitalization of Local Public Health Units for the Nation

The AMA (1) reaffirms its support of state and local health departments; (2) recommends that health departments be directed by well qualified public health trained physicians; and (3) urges federal, state and local governments to study public health and preventive services, and urges the allocation of necessary resources to maintain these services at a high level of quality. (Res. 132, A-90; Reaffirmed by Sub. Res. 425, I-95; Reaffirmed Sub. Res. 421, I-97; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-07)