



Republican Price Tag for Student Loan Fix? Sicker Americans

After voting for a budget that would allow student loan interest rates for millions of borrowers to double on July 1st, Republicans are now pushing a fix that is paid for by eliminating investments in preventive health, a measure that the White House has said it would veto. Instead of playing politics with college students, Republicans should support Democrats' efforts to prevent the student loan rate hike. Taking action to stop the doubling of these rates will save students \$1,000, on average, over the life of their loans.

Eliminating the Prevention and Public Health Fund Would Harm American Families

- **The Prevention Fund provides access to critical prevention services across the country.** The Affordable Care Act (ACA) created the fund to support prevention efforts against diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes and to improve vaccination rates among children. **Find information on fund investments in your state [here](#).**
- **Eliminating the fund could increase risk of cancer, heart disease, and stroke among American families.** The Fund invests \$226 million this year to help combat heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. Republicans would eliminate this and future investments, jeopardizing critical efforts to prevent these life-threatening diseases.
 - *Programs that prevent heart disease could be eliminated.* The fund invests in programs that prevent heart disease and stroke through screening, diagnosis, and follow-up treatment. Heart disease costs our nation over \$440 billion a year, and disproportionately affects women. Eliminating this funding could make early detection of heart disease less likely and result in a higher rate of strokes among at-risk individuals. *Find state data on the overall prevalence of heart disease [here](#) and prevalence among women [here](#).* [CDC, accessed on 4/30/12]
 - *Hundreds of thousands of women could be prevented from obtaining access to vital cancer screenings.* Going forward, the President proposes to use the fund to help more than 300,000 women be screened for breast cancer and more than 280,000 be screened for cervical cancer. According to the White House, eliminating this funding could make early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer less likely, thus putting women's lives at risk. *Find estimated numbers of new breast and cervical cancers cases for 2012 by state [here](#).* [WH Blog, 4/27/12]

- **Slashing investments in childhood immunizations could increase risk of disease among children.** The fund invests \$190 million to improve vaccination rates among children, in addition to investments to protect moms and babies from tobacco.
 - *Tens of thousands of children could lose access to immunizations.* The fund invests \$190 million in the Section 317 program, a program that aims to improve vaccination rates for kids, teenagers and adults nationwide. Routine childhood immunizations prevent 14 million cases of disease and 33,000 deaths every year. For every dollar spent on childhood immunizations, Americans save \$16 in costs to treat preventable illness. This modest investment will save our country over \$3 billion in unnecessary health care costs. *Find state immunization coverage rates [here](#).* [WH Blog, 4/27/12; HHS, access on 4/30/12; ASTHO, 1/31/12]
 - *Programs protecting moms and babies from tobacco could be eliminated.* The Fund invests \$93 million toward tobacco education and support programs. By encouraging a decline in tobacco use, the program could support reduced risk of spontaneous abortion, low birth weight, and premature births. Tobacco use costs the U.S. almost \$96 billion annually in health care bills. Productivity losses from premature death total another \$97 billion. *Please find state tobacco-related data [here](#).* [Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, access on 4/30/12]

Eliminating the Prevention and Public Health Fund Will Increase Health Care Costs

- Strategic investments in prevention and public health have more than a five-to-one return on investment. A report by the Trust For America's Health concluded that investing \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs that increase physical activity, improve nutrition, prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within 5 years. *Given these findings, investments in the Fund could have a return of \$5.60 for every dollar.* [TEAH, 7/17/08]

Repealing Prevention and Public Health Fund Is Opposed by Nearly 800 Organizations

- **The GOP elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund is opposed by nearly 800 Health and Education organizations.** Leading groups of doctors and patient advocates from around the country support the fund, including the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, National Association of Children's Hospitals, Voices for America's Children, U.S. PIRG, Young Invincibles, the U.S. Student Association, and Campus Progress. [TEAH, 3/26/12]