

How you can engage in advocacy to protect public health

Dialogue4Health
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What APHA and other partners are doing in Washington to protect and improve public health

- Direct lobbying
- Writing letters to Congress and federal agencies
- Writing testimony for congressional hearings
- Submitting briefs to support or oppose court cases
- Submitting comments on proposed regulations
- Hosting educational congressional briefings



What APHA and other partners are doing in Washington to protect and improve public health

- These are all effective and important activities, but what it really comes down to is members of Congress hearing from their constituents.
- This is where you can play a key and influential role!



Advocacy activities for public health advocates

- Letters to Congress with state information
- Phone calls
- Hill visits or meetings in your district during recess
- Reach out to health LA
- Host meetings/roundtable discussions with legislators
- Join sign-on letters
- Invite legislators to site visits – show them how federal public health and prevention dollars are being used in their states
- Media advocacy – LTEs and op-eds to local newspapers on key public health such as ACA/PPHF, CDC funding – mention legislators names – they will notice!
- Social media – share your letters, op-eds and other advocacy activities on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media platforms



APHA and other partner resources to help with your advocacy

- Educational webinars
- Fact sheets, issue briefs
- Tips for meeting with your members of Congress
- Tips for writing and submitting a letter to the editor and op-ed
 - Sample op-eds
- Advocacy sessions at APHA Annual Meeting
- Legislative update (APHA members only)
- Other PH partners also have excellent resources you can use in your advocacy



APHA advocacy tools

APHA action alerts

- Editable by user
- Reflect congressional activity

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the APHA website. The URL is <https://secure3.convio.net/apha/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1269>. The page features the APHA logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled "Protect the Affordable Care Act!" and contains a message to be sent to senators and representatives. The message text reads: "As a constituent and American Public Health Association advocate, I write in strong support of the Affordable Care Act, and I urge you to oppose any legislation that would repeal this historic public health law." Below the message is a form with fields for "Title", "First Name", "Last Name", and "Your Email".

Protect the Affordable Care Act!

This week, Republicans in the Senate introduced a fiscal year 2017 budget resolution that allows Congress to begin the process of attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Repealing the ACA would result in nearly 30 million Americans, including children, losing their health insurance coverage. It would also eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, the mandatory funding stream that is providing critical resources to our state and local health departments to keep our communities healthy and safe from infectious disease, lead poisoning and tobacco-related diseases.

Send a message to your senators and representative and urge them to support full implementation of the Affordable Care Act and to oppose any efforts to repeal this historic public health law.

Recipients

- Your Senators
- Your Representative

Contact

- Required fields
- Title:
- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Your Email:

Message

Protect the Affordable Care Act

Dear [Decision Maker],

As a constituent and American Public Health Association advocate, I write in strong support of the Affordable Care Act, and I urge you to oppose any legislation that would repeal this historic public health law.

Personalize your message

Continued implementation of the ACA is critical to addressing the biggest challenges facing our health system, including the escalating health care costs, uneven quality and deaths due to medical errors, discriminatory practices by health insurance providers and the shrinking ranks of the nation's primary care providers. The ACA is helping to shift our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy.

Repealing the ACA would result in nearly 30 million Americans, including children, losing health insurance coverage. These people would lose their insurance coverage as a result of eliminating premium subsidies, Medicaid expansion and the individual mandate. In addition to expanding health insurance coverage, under the ACA, 136 million people with private health coverage now have access to preventive health care services such as vaccines, disease screenings, well-child visits and tobacco cessation counseling without co-pays or deductibles. Quality of care has improved and fewer Americans have lost their lives or are falling ill due to hospital-acquired conditions. The law also provides critical mandatory funding through the Prevention and Public Health Fund for state and local prevention and wellness activities, including efforts to prevent lead poisoning, detect and



APHA and other partner advocacy tools

- Fact sheets
 - State specific
 - Climate change
 - Discretionary health funding
 - Prevention and Public Health Fund
 - Benefits of the ACA
- Reports and issue briefs

GET THE FACTS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the
Health Resources and Services Administration



ABOUT APHA

The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the profession of public health, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a 140-plus year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Learn more at www.apha.org.



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