

Public Health *Is* Stimulating: Prevention and Wellness in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

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Prevention and Wellness Fund

- \$1 billion
 - \$300 million for immunizations
 - \$50 million for health care associated infections
 - \$650 million for community prevention
 - “evidence-based” strategies “that deliver specific, measurable health outcomes”

Who struck John? (1)

- Transition discussions of \$6 billion Wellness Trust managed by the Office of the Secretary (OS)
 - Down payment on health reform
 - Reach as many people as possible in 2 years
 - Evolved into an effort more focused on existing funding streams

Who struck John? (2)

- House:
 - Reduced to \$3 billion – mostly along existing funding lines with \$500 million for community prevention
- Senate:
 - \$5.8 billion (\$2 billion for OS) reported from Appropriations Committee
 - Stripped on floor as part of larger compromise
 - HIV/STD money stripped first with *no* debate
- Conference: \$1 billion
 - Evolution of discussion: health reform to jobs to health reform

Commitment to Prevention

“A historic commitment to wellness initiatives will keep millions of Americans from setting foot in the doctor’s office in the first place – because these are preventable diseases and we’re going to invest in prevention.”

President Barack Obama and ARRA signing
February 17, 2009

Spending plans

- Immunizations: fill gaps in existing programs (Vaccines for Children; possible adult initiative)
- Community Prevention: a work in progress
 - Department wide approach
 - Signature priorities?
 - Form will follow function
 - Not on same timeline as rest of stimulus spending