

Our goal as a community of advocates is to demonstrate the importance of public health in communities around the nation. The following questions are designed to help start conversations about public health issues with policymakers at the local, state and federal levels. There are sample questions for each PHACT campaign focus area: public health funding; the Affordable Care Act; the Prevention and Public Health Fund; and health impacts of climate change.

The questions can be tailored to highlight local issues by providing local examples, your area of interest or expertise and concerns.

Note that the lists provided following certain questions are not exhaustive. Pick examples relevant to you and your community.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

1. The Affordable Care Act has helped millions of people gain affordable health coverage and is helping to shift our health system from one that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy. The House and Senate health care bills in no way build upon the successes of the ACA, and instead would take health care coverage away from over 20 million people, eliminate important funding for prevention and public health, devastate the Medicaid program and block Medicaid patients from going to Planned Parenthood health centers. Will you commit to opposing any bill that takes health care away from people in (fill in with district or state)?
2. Continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act is critical to addressing the biggest challenges facing our health system, including 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. But instead of improving upon the ACA, the House and Senate health care bills would walk back the progress we've made. I am also deeply disappointed that the bills were developed behind closed doors without input from the public or public health experts. Instead of trying to repeal the ACA, will you commit to working with your colleagues in a bipartisan manner and allow for public input to further expand health insurance coverage to the more than 28 million people who remain uninsured?

PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

1. It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides much-needed mandatory funding for programs at the local, state and federal levels to fight obesity, curb tobacco use, increase access to preventive care services and help state and local government respond to public health threats and outbreaks. Do you support maintaining funding for the prevention fund? Sequestration has led to indiscriminate cuts to discretionary and mandatory programs including the prevention fund. Will you support a budget solution that replaces sequestration with a balanced approach to deficit reduction?

2. The Prevention and Public Health Fund was designed to increase the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life and has funded important programs to (Fill in with relevant examples — see list below for some options). There are frequent proposals to cut, repeal or redirect the funding to other programs. The most recent House and Senate health care bills would eliminate the fund. Protecting the Prevention and Public Health Fund is essential to ensuring a strong and healthy nation by improving the public's health and restraining the rate of growth in health care costs. Will you take action to protect this important fund now and in the future?
 - a. *Promote tobacco-free living*
 - b. *Encourage healthy eating*
 - c. *Prevent lead poisoning*
 - d. *Detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks*
 - e. *Expand access to breast and cervical cancer screenings*
 - f. *Prevent suicide*
 - g. *Prevent falls among older adults and adults with disabilities*

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

1. I am concerned about the future of our state and local public health workforce and the important services they provide in our state and communities. These services include (Fill in with relevant services for your community — see list below for examples). Are you familiar with the public health programs that are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration in (name of community/city/state)? Will you pledge to support adequate funding for these important agencies and replace austerity measures with a balanced approach to deficit reduction?
 - a. *Disease and injury prevention activities*
 - b. *Public health workers*
 - c. *Public health labs*
 - d. *Personnel at state and local health departments*
 - e. *Safety net for uninsured/assuring access to care*
 - f. *Cancer screening*
 - g. *Vaccine delivery programs*
 - h. *Tobacco prevention programs*
 - i. *Protecting the public from environmental toxins and other exposures*
 - j. *Food safety*
 - k. *Maternal and child health care programs*

2. Congress continues to underinvest in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. In addition, President Trump has proposed significant cuts to public health agencies in his FY 2018 budget proposal, including a \$1.2 billion reduction at CDC and a \$660 million reduction at HRSA compared with current year funding. These agencies provide funding for programs like (Fill in with relevant programs for your community — see list below for examples). How can we reduce the economic and health-related costs of chronic and communicable disease and injuries when our nation is not investing in programs that prevent and treat these problems? Will you oppose future cuts to these critical programs? Will you commit to working with your House and Senate colleagues to replace current austerity measures with a balanced approach to deficit reduction?
 - a. *Access to care in rural communities*
 - b. *Obesity and tobacco use prevention*
 - c. *Infectious disease detection and response*
 - d. *Emergency preparedness and response*
 - e. *Health professions training and education*
 - f. *Health education and outreach*

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

1. Climate change and rising temperatures expose more Americans to conditions that result in illness and death due to respiratory illness, heat-related stress and insect-borne diseases. Through the Clean Power Plan, the Environmental Protection Agency has taken action to clean up carbon pollution from power plants — the nation’s single largest source of carbon pollution. Unfortunately, the Trump administration has indicated it will seek to roll back or entirely dismantle the Clean Power Plan. The Clean Power Plan is important for reducing carbon pollution and other dangerous power plant emissions. Will you pledge to oppose any efforts to block or delay the plan? Will you heed the clear scientific evidence and take steps now to reduce pollution that drives climate change and harms health?
2. Climate change raises temperatures and makes smog pollution worse, triggering asthma attacks and permanently damaging and reducing lung function. These conditions fall most heavily on our most vulnerable communities, including children, older adults, those with serious health conditions and the poor. What actions will you take to ensure that we reduce carbon pollution and other harmful pollutants that cause respiratory and cardiovascular disease? Will you support funding to help our public health leaders develop plans to protect their communities from the health impacts of climate change?



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