

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-019

Supporting the Affordable Care Act and Opposing Efforts to Reduce, Eliminate or Redirect Funding From the Prevention and Public Health Fund

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The United States pays more for health care than any other country, but has a shorter life expectancy than most developed countries given its approach of treating people after they become sick, rather than keeping them healthy in the first place.
- b. Chronic diseases are the biggest cost drivers, leading to 7 in 10 deaths, 75 percent of all health care costs, and \$1 trillion in lost productivity in the nation each year. Many chronic conditions are preventable or reversible when addressed through community-based interventions targeting physical activity, nutrition and tobacco.
- c. A report by the Trust for America's Health documented that proven community-based prevention programs, like those being implemented in Multnomah County, offer more than \$5 in benefit for every \$1 of investment.
- d. Obese and overweight adults are at greater risk for chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and coronary heart disease and more than half the adults in Multnomah County are either overweight or obese.
- e. Tobacco use contributes substantially to deaths caused by heart disease, stroke, certain cancers and chronic lung diseases, such as emphysema and bronchitis. In 2009, tobacco-related illness cost Multnomah County residents more than \$404 million in direct medical costs and lost productivity.
- f. Nationally more than 30 percent of direct medical costs faced by African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans were excess costs due to health inequities and Multnomah County residents experience disparities similar to those experienced nationally on many health outcomes.
- g. Multnomah County strives to improve the health of its residents, employees and local workforce in order to decrease chronic disease and health care costs, and increase productivity and has demonstrated this commitment by securing a

Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant to inform and advance the national effort to implement effective chronic disease prevention interventions.

- h. The Affordable Care Act invested in prevention through the creation of a \$15 billion Prevention and Public Health Fund to provide dedicated resources for community prevention and other interventions that will focus on keeping Americans healthy, make America more competitive economically, and help make the healthy choices the easy choices for all Americans, including all of us in Multnomah County.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To support prevention and wellness efforts aimed at improving the health of all Americans, including the Prevention and Public Health Fund established by the Affordable Care Act.
- 2. To protect the Affordable Care Act's commitment to prevention by opposing any efforts to reduce, eliminate or redirect funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

ADOPTED this 24th day of February, 2011.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Jeff Cogen, Chair

REVIEWED:

HENRY H. LAZENBY, JR., COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Henry H. Lazenby, Jr., County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Diane McKeel, District 4