




AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

 Center for
Fiscal
Accountability

April 12, 2011

The Honorable Joe Pitts
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pitts,

We write to urge support of H.R. 1217, your bill to repeal Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Section 4002 establishes a health care slush fund that could cost taxpayers over \$15 billion over the next decade, while funding special interest lobbying efforts to increase the burden of government.

The slush fund, labeled the Prevention and Public Health Fund, was both authorized and appropriated under the health care bill. As such, monies for the fund can be disbursed without additional scrutiny by Congress. No approval is required of whether grants are achieving their objectives or if those goals are worthy of continued taxpayer support; there is strong evidence to believe they are not.

Currently, the Prevention and Public Health Fund has already provided grants for a program established under the “stimulus” program, the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) program. Under this initiative, the federal government awarded grants to states and local governments to pursue “prevention and wellness-based” initiatives. The law appropriated \$650 million for grants through the CPPW program, \$500 million of which was awarded in 2010.

Designed under the auspices of improving public health, this program has become little more than a taxpayer-funded exercise in social engineering, with grant monies being used to lobby state and local governments to increase taxes and regulations on consumer goods. Many grant recipients have explicitly stated the federal funds were intended for introducing legislation, promoting increased taxes and advocating for higher prices on goods deemed objectionable by the grantees.

This conflicts with federal lobbying restrictions that prohibit HHS funds from being used for “*any activity designed to influence action in regard to a particular piece of pending legislation...*” What’s more, the funds are not only being used to lobby, but to advocate for bigger government in hopes that state intervention will influence individual behavior. Thus, we urge your colleagues to support H.R. 1217 and look forward to working with you to restore fiscal restraint to the federal government.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Corrao
Executive Director
Center for Fiscal Accountability

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org