

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

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# Prevention and Wellness Fund

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- \$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)

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- 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

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“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

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- 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