



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

COALITION FOR SENSIBLE SAFEGUARDS AND DISABILITY PREVENTION

A new coalition has been formed called the “Coalition for Sensible Safeguards”. The purpose of this coalition is to promote protections against the growing number of attacks on public protections in the U.S. that over run rules and defund important agencies. The coalition brings together diverse individuals and organizations from consumer, labor, science, research, good government, faith, health and environmental communities for a common purpose. The coalition will take positions to advance and keep crucial legislation and regulatory safeguards in place that attempt to undermine them and devolve federal responsibilities.

The CCD has many task forces. The major ones that may have regulatory concerns are those that deal with housing, health, education and employment issues. One task force deals with public health issues which are to prevent disease and disability. The task force is designed to promote a critical role of government which is to protect the health and welfare of the people who live in America.

The public health protections are spread through nine federal departments (see appendix A). Clearly, public health regulations can protect the health and safety of people in the U.S. and benefit society. These public health protections have eroded over the last 30 years. For instance the morbidity and mortality rates in the U.S. compared to other countries are wide, in favor of other countries. (See Appendix B). There is a clear need to shape a dialogue of the benefits of federal regulations concerning population based health to bring accountability to administrative decisions.

Public health advocacy should involve regulations to; 1) articulate an alternate perspective that overshadows anti-regulatory views, and 2) values that communicate a message that trumps the anti-regulatory message. There are interrelationships between the purposes of government, legislation, regulation and enforcement. An example of tobacco is provided in Appendixes A through E. These Appendixes links tobacco with population based health, human and economic consequences of tobacco smoke and regulatory processes that protect the public. Many thanks for your efforts in development of the CSS.

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS IN FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

A central role of government is to protect the health and welfare of its people.

The morbidity and mortality of people in the U.S. is poor when compared to other industrialized countries. (See Appendix B). Thus, there is need for legislative and regulatory initiatives to improve population based health in America as a result of a less than adequate public health system in the U.S. A disconnected public health system, as a result of ineffective legislation, regulation and enforcement may in part, be responsible for low U.S. standing, when compared to other industrialized countries, on population-based morbidity and mortality measures.

Summary Public Health Functions

Broad goals have been expressed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in focus areas and then delineated into objective target areas. The goals and objectives identified that protect the health and welfare of people in America is: ***Increase Years of Healthy Life:*** (Mental and Physical Impairment and Disabilities). ***Promote Healthy Behavior:*** (Physical Activity, Nutrition, Unintentional injuries, Tobacco, Substance Abuse), ***Protect Health:*** (Food and Drug Safety, Environmental Health, Occupational Health, ***Access to Health Care:*** Clinical Preventive Services, Mental Health Services), ***Strengthen Community Prevention:*** (Violent & Abusive Behavior, Community Interventions). ***Eliminate Health Disparities:*** People with Disabilities, Low Income, Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity. An analysis of the President's FY 2011 Budget reveals that a considerable part of the public health venue is implemented through at least 10 Federal Departments other than the Department of Health and Human Services. An analysis of public health functions in federal departments follow

ANALYSIS OF THE PRESIDENTS FY 2012 BUDGET: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

There are many public health functions that are to be implemented in Federal Departments other than Health and Human Services. An analysis of the Presidents FY 2012 Budget proposal revealed the following items associated with public health functions in ten Federal Departments for which effective regulation and enforcement is needed to improve population based health in the U.S..

Department of Agriculture

- *Nutrition*: provides access to healthy foods and nutritional quality
- *Nutrition*: provides child nutrition in schools
- *Nutrition*: provides research on obesity
- *Physical Activity*: provides research on obesity
- *Environmental Health*: protects watersheds and ecosystems
- *Environmental Health*: preserves clean air through biofuel regulations
- *Environmental Health*: protects communities through control of wildfires
- *Environmental Health*: Protects fresh water system from agriculture toxic run offs
- *Access to Healthcare*: protects health of pregnant mothers through the Women and Infants and Children's' program
- *Food Safety*: protects Americans from food borne diseases

Department of Education

- *Nutrition*: provides for school lunch and breakfast programs
- *Physical Activity*: provides for physical education and extracurricular physical activity
- *Access to Health*: funds health education programs through generic education dollars
- *Access to Health*: provides for school counseling, nursing and school health programs
- *Substance Abuse*: provides for drug free school programs
- *Violence Prevention*: provides for gang and bully prevention programs

Department of Energy

- *Environmental Health*: reduces air pollutants and low carbon emissions
- *Environmental Health*: provides for safe storage of nuclear and radiological materials
- *Environmental Health*: protects of ground water aquifers through MTBE storage
- *Environmental Health*: develops carbon capturing technology through advanced Vehicle technology

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Department of Housing and Urban Development

- *Community Prevention*: provides for rental assistance for safe and decent housing
- *Community Prevention*: provides for vouchers and grants for homeless families and those at risk of homeless including people with disability
- *Community Prevention*: improves the physical health condition of public housing stock
- *Community Prevention*: increases linkage between built environments and health

- *Health Disparities*: provides housing assistance for Native Indians, Elderly, and people with disability

Department of Interior

- *Environmental Health*: support plans to create a clean energy for improved environments
- *Environmental Health*: conserves landscapes and ecosystems that lack adequate protection
- *Environmental Health*: fund and regulate Land and Water conservation
- *Environmental Health*: protects federal lands for public recreational enjoyment
- *Environmental Health*: prepares responsibly for wildfires
- *Environmental Health*: assist local communities in increasing water availability by reuse of treated wastewater
- *Environmental Health*: promote progress in restoration of sensitive ecosystems
- *Environmental Health*: develop performance measures and tools to identify restoration activities
- *Environmental Health*: proposes management of surface mining activities that protect water systems from toxic materials

Department of Justice

- *Violence Prevention*: provide for retention of police officers in communities
- *Violence Prevention*: provides for evidence supported initiatives to combat violence in local communities
- *Violence Prevention*: supports women victims of violence, including domestic abuse and sexual assault victims
- *Substance Abuse*: supports a comprehensive approach to combating drugs
- *Substance Abuse*: provides for residential substance abuse treatment programs in State and local prisons and jails.
- *Community Health*: increases public safety efforts in tribal areas

Department of Labor

- *Worker Safety*: support safe and healthy work places
- *Worker Safety* rebuild worker protection programs to assure resources to meet responsibilities to protect health of workers and working conditions
- *Community Health*: helps States provide paid family leave to workers
- *Worker Safety*: effectively regulate OSHA and the Mine Safety and Health Administration

Department of Transportation

- *Mission*: support improvement of life quality which includes promoting and protection of health
- *Unintentional Injuries*: develops of a smarter infrastructure that will promote population safety from unintentional injuries
- *Unintentional Injuries*: establishes a new federal transit safety program with stringent oversight
- *Environmental Health*: develop an approach to reduce greenhouse gases
- *Environmental Health*: enhances pipeline and hazardous materials safety
- *Community Health*: strengthen built environments to improve health through physical activity

Veterans Affairs

- *Health Disparities*: provide for the unique health needs of women veterans with specialized medical and counseling services

- *Healthcare Access*: Enroll eligible low income veterans into VA healthcare
- *Healthcare Access*: enables the VA to maintain a complete health record and directly improve accuracy and timeliness of veterans benefits
- *Community Health*: reduce veterans homelessness
- *Mental Health*: provides specialized care for Veterans with psychological and cognitive health needs (Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome)

Environmental Protection Agency

- *Mission*: The Agency protects human health and the environment to implement air, water, waste, and chemical programs and provides research, regulation, and comprehensive enforcement of public health functions
- *Environmental Health*: enhance clean water
- *Environmental Health*: supports efforts to mitigate climate change through clean energy technologies and policies to reduced gas greenhouse emissions in the U.S.
- *Environmental Health*: advances restoration of Great Lakes and other imperiled waters such as the Chesapeake Bay and the Mississippi River Basin from toxins
- *Environmental Health*: assists States and Tribes with clean air and water efforts the
- *Environmental Health*: Regulate and enforce contaminated Brownfield clean-ups

APPENDIX B

Morbidity and Mortality Comparisons between the U.S. Other Countries

There are substantive differences in morbidity and mortality rates between the U. S. and other modern industrialized countries. These difference may in part be do to poorly regulated and enforced elements of the U.S. public health system The morbidity and mortality information is listed below

- The U.S. is 46th in life expectancy and 76th if the measure is adjusted for disability in the world
- The U.S. is 42nd on infant mortality in the world
- The U.S. is 36th in the world on quality adjusted life years
- A black male in the District of Columbia has the lowest life expectancy in the Western Hemisphere with the exception of Haiti
- A child in Cuba has a 60% greater chance of reaching the 5th birthday than a child in the U.S. (i.e. 5 per thousand deaths in Cuba, 8 per thousand in the U. S.)

APPENDIX C

Tobacco and Health: Implications for Population Based Health

Tobacco smoke is an element of public health that has an adverse impact on population based health in the U.S.. The U, S. Surgeon General issued a new report that details the biological damage tobacco smoke wreaks on the body. Conclusion of Surgeon General Report was that there is no risk free level exposure to tobacco smoke. Smoking keeps the body under attack because tobacco is designed for addiction. Tobacco needs to be regulated to protect the public.

- Tobacco use causes 18 difference cancers to most organs of the body
- The morbidity and mortality related to tobacco use has a profound impact on public health
- Tobacco is linked to 400,000 deaths a year
- Tobacco is linked to 18 different organ sites
- Tobacco contains 60 established carcinogens and toxicants and 5,000 chemicals
- Second hand smoke causes lung cancer to non smokers
- Damage is immediate and smoking longer means more damage
- Smoking alters blood chemistry, leads to heart attacks and stroke, and scars ones lungs
- Tobacco hurts unborn babies people who want to be parents, babies and children

APPENDIX D

Economic Consequences of Tobacco Smoke

There is a heavy economic burden through medical costs and productivity losses that is placed on people in America. Some of the economic burdens from smoking are listed below.

- The total annual economic burden of cigarette smoking including direct health care expenditures and productivity losses was approximately \$193 billion in 2004.
- Medicaid payments were \$31 billion and Medicare, \$27 billion in 2004
- Annual expenditures for health and developmental problems of infants and children caused by mothers smoking or being exposed to second hand smoke at birth was \$1 to \$4 billion
- Productivity losses caused by smoking each year are \$97 billion
- Costs through Social Security Survivors Insurance for more than 300,000 people who have lost at least one parent from smoking caused death is \$2.6 billion
- Taxpayers yearly fed/state tax burden from smoking is \$70 billion (over \$600 per household)
- Tobacco industry expenditures lobbying congress, in 2009. were \$24.6 million
- Tobacco companies spent \$125 million in direct and grass roots lobbying to defeat a tobacco control bill in 1998.

APPENDIX E

Evidence Based Regulation of Tobacco Products

Effective regulation of tobacco products is essential to protect the health and welfare of people in America. It is directly related to both population based health of American and has immense adverse fiscal consequences if these products are not well regulated. Recommendations for regulation of tobacco products by the American Association of Cancer Researchers appear below.

- Enforce existing laws and evidence based policies with greater vigor
- Establish of a science based regulatory framework for evaluating the harm of tobacco products
- The FDA regulatory authorities should be forward thinking and fully integrate research into the public health infrastructure
- FDA should make some policy decisions based on incomplete scientific evidence (i.e. best available evidence)
- Terms like “light”, “low”, and “mild” should be eliminated because of the implication that the products are less hazardous
- Regulations should pursue economic policies that support tobacco control, including establishing and enforcement of taxation, pricing regulations, reduction of tobacco industry government subsidies and support for tobacco farm conversion to alternative crops
- The government should allocate revenues from tobacco product taxes to tobacco control
- Regulations should exercise all available regulatory authority , based on sound science to reduce morbidity ad mortality form tobacco use
- Require manufactures to prove there is sufficient scientific evidence to support health claims in product design.
- Develop and implement a national surveillance system to track all tobacco products
- Require that the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and the Center for Tobacco Products at FDA coordinate effort to assure regulation and labeling of tobacco products be more stringent than that of cessation treatments in proportion to the relative harm of these two classes of products.