



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## **CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH CAUCUSES CAN PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR LEGISLATION TO PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

*Members of congressional health caucuses can provide leadership and support for legislation that can prevent diminished health that can contribute to disability.*

There were congressional visits to recruit participants for House of Representative Public Health caucuses. There is interest in House of Representatives for caucus organizations to confront obesity and other public health issues.

### **Summary**

The purpose of the House public health caucuses is to protect and facilitate the health and safety of children youth and adults. There is need to find leaders in the House of Representatives to lead some public health caucuses. It is desirable that caucus leadership be members of committees for which there are public health functions.

### **Disability Prevention Issue**

There is evidence that 20% of school children in Americans have physical and/or mental impairments and their health gets worse as they move through adolescence due to acquisition of unhealthy lifestyles and risky behavior. These unhealthy lifestyles of school age children result in diminished health. In addition, there are also severe economic consequences that result from a host of chronic health conditions that consume over 70% of U.S. health care costs. There are organizations, colleges and universities who support efforts to provide continuity to the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress's initiatives to improve and/or protect the health and safety of people in America. Some needed agenda items are 1) providing continuity of public health legislation from the 110<sup>th</sup> to 111th Congress and 2) formulation of staff briefings to educate congressional staff on relevant legislative public health issues designed to prevent diminished health and disability.

### **Activity**

Communications were established with legislative staff who could advocate for public health policies.

### **Principle**

The House of Representatives "Health Caucuses" should develop an active agenda that advocates for effective legislation that protects diminished health of people in America.