



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## **DISABILITY PREVENTION LEGISLATION**

*An infrastructure that provides information on public health legislation is needed to systematically address issues that can diminish health of people in America*

A tracking system is needed that facilitates access to public health legislation. Some of the public health factors associated with prevention of diminished health and disability are Obesity, Physician Activity and Chronic Health, Nutrition, School Health, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Prevention of Violence and Unintentional Injuries, Worker Safety, Protection from Toxic Materials and other public health aspects.

### **Summary**

The legislative activity on the web, [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov), provides information of the number, purpose and name of public health legislation, sponsors and co-sponsors, when it was introduced, committees of jurisdiction and latest action. Some of the ways the information can be utilized follows:

- Provides an inventory of legislation that is present
- Enables advocates of public health to set legislative priorities
- Profiles initiation for action on specific topics of legislation
- Enables assessment of positions of individual congresspersons
- Enables facilitation of communication with individual members of Congress and Caucuses
- Assists with communication and policy positions among coalitions that address public health issues.

### **Disability Prevention Issues**

Public health is the foundation of systems for health in the U.S.. Legislative activities of public health are spread across many legislative committees where they receive low priority in their areas of jurisdiction. Advocates for public health, for the most part, associate with specific aspects of public health. Further, those aspects, as a rule, do not focus on issues associated with diminished health that can contribute to disability. The development of a repository of the major aspects of public health legislation may bring an integrated focus on addressing public health issues. Public health advocates need to utilize information concerning legislative activity in areas designed to prevent diminished health and disability

**Intervention**

A list of public health legislation is being compiled for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

**Recommendation**

A systematic plan to facilitate favorable public health legislation should be developed and implemented to prevent diminished health and disability.