



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

ESTABLISH DISABILITY PREVENTION AS A PRIORITY THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Prevention of disability through effective public health should be a priority that requires quality infrastructures.

A forum was held by the “Campaign for America’s Future” to discuss the implications of economic problems as they relate to investments of the American infrastructure. Participants at the forum were a member of congress, economic experts, representatives from labor, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a political pollster.

Summary

The focus on infrastructure investment proposed at the forum was on physical structures of transportation, water systems, formal education and pre and post school learning. However, there are health benefits that can result from investments in a more effective public health infrastructure.

Disability Prevention Issue

There are data that places the U.S. as 46th in life expectancy and 42nd in infant mortality among other countries. These dismal results are, in part; do to a dysfunctional public health system. Investing in the public health infrastructures would result in millions of jobs. These jobs would be designed to promote and protect health that extends life for all Americans. It would assist with access to health services, and community public health interventions which may result in reducing health disparities between vulnerable populations and the fortunate. These public health investments could control toxic waste water, control unintentional injuries through making transportation safer, provide schools that protect and promote health , invest in public recreation areas that could address obesity through increased opportunity for physical activity, and protect drinking water and air from toxic materials.

Intervention

A letter was sent to the author of a document presented at the forum that commented on the need for investment in a public health infrastructure designed to prevent disability.

Recommendation

Prevention of disability through investment in an effective public health infrastructure should be an investment priority for America.