



September 29, 2023

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

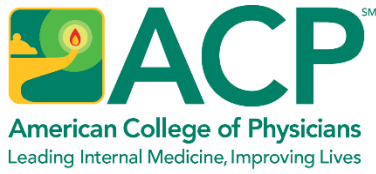
Dear Senators Cardin, Crapo, King and Cramer and Representatives Burgess and DeGette,

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to share our support for H.R. 766/S.114, *the Preventive Health Savings Act*. This legislation would enable the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to capture the cost-savings associated with preventive health care legislation more accurately, beyond the existing 10-year window, for two additional 10-year periods. The College strongly supports this legislation as it would allow Congress and the public to have a better understanding of the long-term benefits of proposed health care investments.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 161,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge, clinical expertise, and compassion to the preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

[In 2021](#), the United States approximately spent \$4 trillion on health care expenditures, which made up 17.4% of our country's gross domestic product. Despite the U.S. spending nearly twice as much per capita on health care than other high-income countries, we rank lower in population health metrics.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [90% of health care expenditures](#) were spent on treating and managing chronic diseases, both physical and mental. Further, [chronic diseases](#) are the leading causes of illness, disability, and death in the United States.

[Research shows](#) that preventive health programs can lead to long-term health and economic benefits. While the initial costs to establish and implement these programs may be high, the long-term advantages – both in cost-savings and improved health outcomes – will likely outweigh the initial costs. However, not all benefits for preventive health efforts can be



captured within a 10-year period, which is the current window that the CBO uses to score legislation to be used in the Congressional budget process.

The College [supports](#) greater investment in preventive health services. As internal medicine physicians, we play a [role](#) in preventive health by helping reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases, which improves health outcomes. Not only are we uniquely qualified and positioned to manage chronic illnesses, but we are also trained to identify risk-factors that can lead to such illnesses. We can effectively encourage patients towards preventive measures, such as increasing their physical activity and eating healthier. Our roles can be supported by legislation that would ensure a more accurate and complete analysis of the impact of investments in evidenced-based preventive health programs. This legislation would pave the way for Congress to pass meaningful health care legislation that can, in the long run, effectively reduce health care expenditures and save lives.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to sponsor this critical legislation that would improve the health and well-being of Americans across the country. Should you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Vy Oxman, Senior Associate of Legislative Affairs, at voxman@acponline.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Omar Atiq".

Omar T. Atiq, MD, FACP

President

ⁱ Papanicolas I, Woskie LR, Jha AK. Health care spending in the United States and other high-income countries [erratum in JAMA. 2018;319(17):1824]. JAMA . 2018;319(10):1024 –1039. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2018.1150>