



APHA Health Reform Advocacy Toolkit

Public Health ACTION (PHACT) Campaign



American
Public Health
Association

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Introduction

Dear Advocates,

Health reform legislation presents a unique opportunity to improve the public's health and specifically, to start moving from a system that focuses on treating the sick to one that focuses on keeping people healthy. Health reform legislation must include a strong investment in community-based health promotion and preventive health services in order to measurably improve health and control costs. Unfortunately, many of our federal policymakers are unaware of the role public health must play in improving our nation's health system.

The purpose of this toolkit is to raise awareness of public health's critical role in ensuring a healthy America. It includes information and resources on different strategies for engaging in grassroots advocacy to educate members of Congress and the new administration on the most critical changes we must make to improve the public's health. These priorities are the APHA 2009 Agenda for Health Reform and are based on longstanding APHA policies and the best current evidence.

APHA members and state affiliates are especially encouraged to use and disseminate the toolkit, particularly during the month of August when members of Congress are on recess and return to their home States and districts to connect with constituents. We also hope the toolkit serves as a resource for organizations, community-leaders and individuals.

Thank you for helping us to accomplish our goals. Each voice heard, each story shared is another step in the right direction.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (Emeritus)
APHA Executive Director

APHA 2009

AGENDA FOR HEALTH REFORM

APHA 2009

Agenda for Health Reform

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) is the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. Founded in 1872, the Association represents a broad array of health providers, educators, environmentalists, policy-makers and health officials working at all levels both within and outside of government. APHA aims to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and strives to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. Our goal is for the United States to become the healthiest nation in one generation.

As the new administration and Congress address health system reform, we have both the challenge and opportunity to think broadly about how to improve the health of our nation. Since the early 1900s, APHA has vigorously promoted the need for universal coverage for health care. This is a first essential step to achieve that end. However, to optimize our nation's health, we must do more. We must ensure the social and economic conditions that allow individuals and communities to be healthy. Shifting from a focus on treating illness, to providing community-based health promotion and preventive health services, will measurably improve health and control costs. The APHA Agenda for Health Reform highlights the most critical changes we must make to improve the public's health, based on long-standing APHA policies and the best current evidence.

Support Population Based Services That Improve Health

POPULATION BASED PROGRAMS deliver resources to the whole community and are proven to realize a more positive health impact than do individual interventions alone. These programs can target root causes of disease, disability and health disparities and can help achieve increased value for our health dollar.

- ◆ **Invest in population-based and community-based prevention, education and outreach programs** that have been proven to prevent disease and injury and improve the social determinants of health.
- ◆ **Address the chronic underfunding of the nation's public health system.** Increase funding for vital public health agencies and programs. Health reform must provide adequate and sustainable funding to address the growing demand placed on the federal, state and local public health agencies that protect and promote the nation's health. These include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other federal public health agencies along with state and local health departments.
- ◆ **Account for the real cost savings and cost avoidance of preventive and early intervention services at the individual and community levels through more accurate fiscal scoring methods.** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) should be directed to develop and implement methods to more accurately score the costs savings associated with community-based and other prevention programs.
- ◆ **Develop, expand and monitor programs to reduce disparities in health.** Persistent health inequities and disparities mean that millions of Americans suffer from a disproportionately high burden of disease, disability and premature death. These disparities also impose an unacceptable fiscal cost. Supporting programs and system changes that have potential to address and eliminate these disparities during health reform offers an opportunity to significantly reduce costs and improve the health of these populations. Health reform must support funding for research to better understand the underlying causes of health disparities and to develop and support effective strategies that work to reduce their impact on long-term health and wellness.
- ◆ **Require methods to assess the impact federal policies and programs have on public health.** Health is intricately tied to community design and directly affected by policies and programs across various sectors, including housing, transportation, environment, land use, agriculture, labor, education, trade and the economy. Therefore, health reform legislation should require a health impact assessment for all new federal policies and programs.
- ◆ **Establish health goals and outcomes and require an annual "State of the Nation's Health" report to hold ourselves accountable.** Require an annual report to the nation that holds the system accountable for achieving agreed upon health goals and outcomes. The federal government should develop appropriate standardized measures and health status indicators, along with methods for collecting, reporting and analyzing such data. Key federal agencies like the National Center for Health Statistics and state entities such as vital statistics departments should be adequately supported to do this work. Additionally, the report should include data by patient demographic factors such as race and ethnicity, age, gender, primary language, socio-economic position, geographic location and health literacy.

Reform Health Care Coverage and Delivery

WE MUST ENSURE coverage for quality, affordable health care for all. This means covering the over 46 million uninsured, and improving the quality and safety of the health care system, including building a modern health information infrastructure.

- ◆ **Comprehensive health care coverage for all.** All people living in this country should have comprehensive benefits, including evidence-based clinical preventive services, management of chronic diseases and conditions, behavioral health, dental and vision care, and reproductive health services, without restrictions in coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
 - ◆ **Strong public programs.** Public programs serve vital functions in our health system. Safety net programs such as public health clinics and Veterans Administration health services provide direct services for particular populations that cannot be replaced by private providers. As people move from the rolls of the underinsured and uninsured, we must strengthen funding for these public programs to assure that patients do not fall through the cracks. In addition, strengthening and expanding public insurance programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP builds on what works best in our system. As a starting point, Medicare, which is consistently scored as the most efficient insurance program for health coverage, should be expanded as a coverage option for all.
 - ◆ **Access to affordable and high-quality health care for all.** Health reform must strengthen the health service delivery system to ensure access to timely, appropriate, culturally competent and affordable high quality health care services, and create an equitable distribution of resources nationwide.
- A fundamental shift in reimbursement and other policies that promote primary care is also required to ensure individuals are given the best opportunity for disease prevention or treatment at the earliest opportunity. A continued investment in health information technology that promotes achieving care of the highest quality, safety and efficiency is required.
- ◆ **First dollar support for evidence-based clinical preventive services.** Clinical preventive services are critical for long-term health and wellness. There are clear data indicating which clinical preventive services are most effective, but barriers still exist to providing and accessing these services. High priority, age appropriate, evidence-based clinical preventive services must be provided with no co-pays or co-insurance in all public and private health insurance programs.
 - ◆ **Expand the public health and primary care workforce.** Health reform legislation must significantly increase support and funding for programs that provide loan repayments, scholarships and other grants for the training of public health personnel, primary care physicians, nurses and other health providers. It must also improve the distribution and diversity of health professionals in medically underserved communities, as well as ensure there is a capable health workforce able to provide care for all Americans and respond to the growing demands of our aging and increasingly diverse population.



Attending a Public Meeting

Public meetings, or town hall meetings as they are sometimes called, are an opportunity for raising awareness nationally and locally about public health's critical role in ensuring a healthy America. During the August Congressional recess, many policymakers hold such events in their districts in order to hear from their constituents and understand the needs of the community.

Find an upcoming public meeting in your community. Call the nearest district office of your Senators and Representative or visit their websites for information about upcoming public meetings.

Use your network. Share information about the meeting with other advocates and partner organizations. Try to get as many other public health advocates to attend the public meeting as possible. This will lend support to your efforts and demonstrate to your policymaker the extent of community support for making public health a priority in health reform legislation.

Tips for Speaking at a Public Meeting

- Determine the purpose and tone of the event. Contact your policymaker's district office to determine who else is expected to participate or make a presentation. Gaining a better sense of what the overall agenda of the public meeting is to be focused on, and anticipating the general "tone" of the meeting will help you to prepare your remarks and your delivery style.
- Be prepared with accurate, timely, and relevant information. Be as strategic as possible. Work to present your statement and/or question as early in the meeting as you are able, as the press is more likely to attend and cover the first part of the event.
- Keep your presentation brief. Limiting your statement to a small number of clear, concise points and providing persuasive facts allows those attending the public meeting to understand and remember your points. Ask your policymaker to respond to your statement with his/her position.
- Practice makes perfect. Practicing your statement and/or question on colleagues and other public health advocates will ensure that you are comfortable and convincing when sharing your concerns with a larger audience.
- Provide paper. Leave written copies of your position or statement with the policymaker, his/her staff, press, and the public attending the meeting. Prepare a fact sheet with the instructions and template provided at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/tips/PHACT+Campaign.htm>.



Questions to Ask

Raise one or more of the following questions at a public meeting or other avenue to help expand thinking about our nation's health system from one of health care to one that includes all public health services and activities, and generate interest in prevention and support for strengthening the public health infrastructure. The lists provided in two of the questions are not meant to be exhaustive. You are encouraged to pick examples that are relevant to you and that you are comfortable with.

1. I am concerned about the state of our nation's public health infrastructure. As the swine flu outbreak and food safety scares remind us, state and local health departments are on the frontlines of emerging issues and are often asked to take on more responsibilities without being provided more resources. As you consider health reform legislation, what are you going to do to assure that after years of underfunding, our public health system, including state and local health departments have the resources it needs to: (fill in from list)?
 - a. Monitor and prevent chronic and communicable disease and injuries
 - b. Train new and existing public health workers
 - c. Ensure adequate resources for public health laboratories
 - d. Ensure adequate personnel at state and local health departments
 - e. Provide a health safety net for the uninsured and underinsured
 - f. Assure access to quality health care
 - g. Ensure access to cancer screening
 - h. Administer vaccine delivery programs
 - i. Provide tobacco prevention and cessation programs
 - j. Protect the public from environmental hazards
 - k. Ensure food safety
 - l. Protect worker health and safety
 - m. Provide health and health literacy education

2. It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Primary prevention requires us to direct the emphasis in the health system from one that focuses on treating people after they get sick to one that helps people stay healthy. Prevention and wellness include more than clinical preventive services, worksite wellness or chronic disease management. Public health activities and population-based programs, such as tobacco cessation, nutrition, building healthy and safe communities where people live, work, play and travel easily; and assuring clean air and water must be part of any disease and injury prevention strategy. What are you willing to do to support a broader approach to prevention so that we move from treating preventable illnesses and injuries to ensuring that the population has access to a broader range of prevention interventions?



- 3.** Federal agencies provide much of the funding for state and local public health programs, including (fill in from list). Unfortunately, several of these agencies – such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration – are not provided sufficient funding to accomplish their mission and protect the public’s health. How would you prioritize funding for these agencies so they can fulfill their roles in health reform?

 - a. Support to immunization programs
 - b. Surveillance and monitoring the nation’s health
 - c. Prevention block grants
 - d. Community health centers
 - e. Health professions training and education
 - f. Improving the built environment
 - g. Emergency preparedness and response
 - h. Health education and outreach
 - i. Worker health and safety

- 4.** While in the last 30 years, overall health of American’s has improved, racial and ethnic minorities have not seen the same improvement and the disparities in infant mortality, chronic disease and other indicators of health between racial and ethnic minorities and non-Hispanic whites have increased. In addition, racial and ethnic minorities experience disparities in access to and quality of prevention and treatment options. What type of provisions do you support in health reform to eliminate these disparities?

- 5.** With rising numbers of uninsured and underinsured in the US population, we must move forward this year to assure that all residents are covered for access to affordable health care. The lack of health care insurance coverage undermines health status, aggravates social and economic disparities, and continues to place an undue burden on our nation’s emergency departments and public hospitals. We must also ensure that everyone can access all types of health services, including clinical and community-based preventive services. A strong public plan option for insurance coverage (such as Medicare for all) can provide coverage for the uninsured and underinsured quickly, and aid in solving the problem of access to care. How would you include a public plan option in health reform?



Meeting with Your Policymaker

One of the most effective ways to influence the policymaking process and make a lasting connection is to visit with your Senators and Representative, or their staff, in person. Most legislators have regular office hours, in their district offices and in the Capitol, during which they and their staff are available to their constituents. The August Congressional recess is a good opportunity to meet with your Senators and Representative closer to home.

Tips for Arranging a Meeting

- **Send a letter, a fax or call requesting an appointment.** If you want to meet with your legislator in the district, send the request to the district office. If you will be visiting the Capitol, send the letter to that office.
- **Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent** and address the letter to the legislator and to the attention of the appointment scheduler. Include information about who you are, the nature of your visit (identify what you want to discuss), when you would like to meet, and the names of any friends or colleagues who may accompany you.
- **Follow up by calling the policymaker's office** to which you sent the letter and ask to speak with the scheduler or the staffer who handles appointments. Explain who you are and why you are calling, referring to the letter you sent. If the legislator is unavailable at that time or will not be in the area on the date you would like to meet, the appointment scheduler may offer you another date/time or provide you the opportunity to meet with the legislative staff person who handles the issue.
- **Send a letter or make a phone call confirming the appointment.**



Sample Request for an Appointment

August _____, 2009

The Honorable _____
Attention: Scheduler
United States Senate/ U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510 (Senate) / 20515 (House) [**or district office address**]

Dear Senator/ Representative _____,

As a constituent and public health professional, I am writing to request an appointment with [**Senator/ Representative**] _____ in [**name of town where nearest district office is**] on [**insert date and times available**] to discuss public health in health reform legislation.

As a member of the American Public Health Association, the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the public and our communities, I am concerned that legislation to reform our nation's health system might fail to include strong public health provisions, including population-based and community-based prevention, education and outreach programs. We believe that we must change the emphasis of our health system from one that focuses on treating people after they get sick to one that helps people stay healthy in the first place.

Please contact me to let me know when you might be available to meet. I will follow up with you in the next week by phone. Thank you for considering my request.

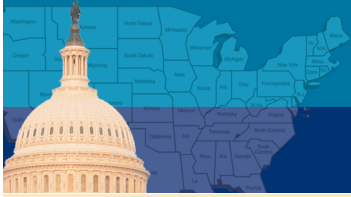
Sincerely,

[**Name**]
[**Home address**]
[**Telephone number**]
[**Email address**]



Tips for Conducting a Meeting

- **Arrive on time.** If meeting with a staff member, be sure you have the correct contact name. Do not underestimate the power of the staff person in helping to shape the policymaker's opinions and positions on issues or a particular piece of legislation.
- **Bring two or three colleagues with you.** Prior to the meeting, you should agree on what points will be made and which one each of you will discuss.
- **Try to deliver your message in three minutes.** Be sure to introduce yourself and your colleagues and explain why you are concerned about the issue and why you have expertise regarding the issue. Be concise, polite, and professional.
- **Be prepared** to answer questions. When asked what you want, clearly explain.
- **Be a resource for the policymaker and his/her staff.** Offer your time and assistance if he/she wants to talk about your areas of interest and expertise in the future.
- **Provide material to support your position.** Leave behind a business card and a one-page fact sheet summarizing your position. Prepare a fact sheet with the instructions and template provided at : <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/tips/PHACT+campaign.htm>
- **Follow up with a thank you letter.** Be sure to include any additional information you may have promised or that may be relevant to the issue.



Do's and Don'ts for Meeting with your Members of Congress:

- Do learn the committee assignments of your members of Congress and where their specialties lie.
- Do present the need for what you're asking the member of Congress to do. Use data or cases you know.
- Do relate situations in his/her home state or district.
- Do ask the Representative's or Senator's position and why.
- Do show openness to the knowledge of counterarguments and respond to them.
- Do admit you don't know. Offer to try to find out the answer and send information back to the office.
- Do spend time with members whose position is against yours. You can lessen the intensity of the opposition and perhaps change it.
- Do spend time in developing relationships with Congressional staff.
- Do thank them for stands the member has taken which you support.
- Don't overload the meeting with too many issues.
- Don't confront, threaten, pressure or beg.
- Don't be argumentative. Speak with calmness and commitment so as not to put him/her on the defensive.
- Don't overstate the case. Members of Congress are very busy and you are apt to lose their attention if you are too wordy.
- Don't expect members of Congress to be specialists. Their schedules and workloads tend to make them generalists.
- Don't be put off by smokescreens or long-winded answers. Bring the members back to the point. Maintain control of the meeting.
- Don't make promises you can't deliver.
- Don't be afraid to take a stand on the issues.
- Don't shy away from meetings with legislators with known views opposite your own.
- Don't be offended if a legislator is unable to meet and requests that you meet with his/her staff.



Calling Your Policymaker

A phone call to your policymakers or their staff is an effective way of influencing legislation. Legislators regularly ask their staff to report on the opinions of constituents calling the office and some offices keep track of the numbers of constituents weighing in on either side of a particular issue.

To call your Congressional Representative or Senator's Washington, DC office, call the **U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121** and ask for the office of Representative/Senator _____. You can also call his/her state or district office(s).

Sample Phone Script

Hello, my name is _____ and I am a constituent and public health advocate in your [state/ congressional district].

I am calling today as a constituent and advocate on behalf of the American Public Health to urge Senator/Representative _____ to ensure that any legislation to reform our nation's health system includes strong public health provisions, including population-based and community-based prevention, education and outreach programs. We must change the emphasis of our health system from one that focuses on treating people after they get sick to one that helps people stay healthy in the first place. I also believe we must ensure access to comprehensive, affordable and high-quality health care for all. This means covering the over 46 million uninsured and expanding the public health and primary care workforce so that it is able to provide care to all Americans and respond to the growing demands of our aging and increasingly diverse population.

Thank you for your attention to my request and I look forward to hearing Senator/Representative _____'s position on public health in health reform.

[Leave your name, home address and phone number so the office can follow up with you at a later time.]



Writing to your Policymaker

As has been pointed out, your policy makers welcome your opinions and expertise on issues affecting you, your community and your state. Writing a letter to your Senators and Representative can be very effective in influencing health reform legislation and expressing the importance of including strong public health provision to you, your community and your state.

Tips for Writing a Letter

Keep the following tips in mind as you correspond with your policymakers.

- Offices accept constituent mail via **email, fax or the postal service**. Many policymakers prefer to receive correspondence using an online form on their websites or fax. U.S. mail can often take weeks to arrive due to security.
- **Accuracy and attention to detail.** Be sure to use the proper form of address and correct spelling of the policymaker.
- Whenever possible, use your **organization's letterhead**.
- Remember to identify yourself as a **constituent**.
- **Identify yourself as a public health professional in the text of your letter.** Whenever possible, give your official title and any professional degrees, following your signature.
- **Short letters are best.** Try to keep them to one page. Be sure not to use jargon or confusing technical terms.
- **Concentrate on a single issue.** Letters should cover only one topic or bill and be timed to arrive while the issue is alive.
- **Praise, Praise, Praise.** If your legislator pleases you by supporting a public health issue, write and tell him/her so.



In addition, there are important points to remember regarding the substance of your letter.

- **State your purpose for writing at the outset.**
- **Correctly identify the legislation.** If you are writing about a specific bill, remember to describe it by its official title and number, as well as by its popular name.
- **Tell your legislator how the issue would affect you and the rest of his/her constituents.** Your own personal experience and district-specific information are the best supporting evidence. In addition, data and research supporting your position is important.
- **Be sure that your facts and assertions are accurate.** Often legislators use constituent mail to make points during speeches or debates and to convince fellow legislators of their position.
- **Ask your policymaker for his/her position on the issue.** Indicate that you look forward to hearing from him/her on this issue.

Your letter will be read by the legislator and/or a member of the legislative staff. Sometime after it is received, you should receive a letter from the legislator, which will include the legislator's opinion on the issue. You may want to send a note of appreciation if your position is supported.



Sample Letter

August _____, 2009

The Honorable _____
United States Senate/ U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510 (Senate)/ 20515 (House) [**or district office address**]

Dear Senator/ Representative _____,

As a constituent and American Public Health Association advocate, I am writing to urge you to ensure any legislation to reform our nation's health system provides universal coverage for health care and includes strong public health provisions, including population-based and community-based prevention, education and outreach programs. We believe that we must change the emphasis of our health system from one that focuses on treating people after they get sick to one that helps people stay healthy in the first place.

APHA recently released its 2009 Agenda for Health Reform (available at: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/now/resources/>). This document highlights the most critical changes we must make to improve the public's health, based on longstanding APHA policies, as well as the best current evidence. Specifically, APHA is recommending that health reform legislation include the following provisions:

- Invest in population-based and community-based prevention, education and outreach programs,
- Maintain support for existing public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, Veterans Health Administration,
- Assure consumer choice of a strong public plan option for insurance coverage (such as Medicare for all),
- Address the chronic underfunding of the nation's public health system,
- Account for the real cost savings and cost avoidance of preventive and early intervention services at the individual and community levels through more accurate fiscal scoring methods,
- Develop, expand and monitor programs to reduce disparities in health,
- Require methods to assess the impact federal policies and programs have on public health,
- Establish health goals and outcomes and require an annual "State of the Nation's Health" report to hold ourselves accountable,
- Ensure access to comprehensive, affordable and high-quality health care for all,
- Eliminate copayments and other fees for evidence-based clinical preventive services, and
- Expand the public health and primary care workforce.

We urge you to work to ensure that these key provisions are considered as Congress moves forward with efforts to reform our nation's health system. Thank you for your attention to my request and I look forward to hearing your position on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[**Name**]

[**Home address**]

[**Telephone number**]

[**Email address**]

[You can also send this letter to your Members of Congress electronically through APHA's website by visiting <https://secure3.convio.net/apha/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=135>.](https://secure3.convio.net/apha/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=135)



Media Advocacy

Writing an op-ed for a newspaper or other media outlet is a great advocacy tool and helps create awareness of the importance of public health in health reform. An op-ed is a short article generally placed opposite the editorial page.

Tips for Placing an Op-Ed

- **Start early.** Many papers receive up to 500 submissions a week. Submit an op-ed to only one paper at a time.
- **Reach out.** Call the newspaper and ask for the editorial page editor. Introduce yourself and tell them you are interested in submitting an op-ed for placement during the August Congressional recess and ask about any specific guidelines (such as word count or submission deadlines). Also ask for guidance that would help ensure placement.
- **Personalize your op-ed.** Build in your own experiences, highlighting topics that would be of interest to the readers of your local paper. Try to refer to a recent story in the paper. At the end, include your full name and a brief description of who you are and what you do, illustrating what makes you an expert on the subject. Make sure to include contact information with your submission.
- **Follow the submission guidelines.** Many newspapers prefer submissions via email, fax or an online form on their websites, although some may ask you to send it via U.S. mail. Following their preferences will increase the chances of getting your op-ed placed. When you send your submission, include a cover letter reminding the editor who you are and reference any previous contact you may have had. Highlight why the subject is important to the newspaper's readers.
- **Be persistent.** Make a follow-up call about a week after submitting your op-ed to give time for the editor to review it. Confirm that the op-ed was received and answer any questions the editor may have. Offer to modify it if needed.



Sample Op-Ed

Dear Editor:

As Congress and the Obama administration work to reform our nation's health system, we have both the challenge and the opportunity to think broadly about how to improve the health of our nation.

With the goal of making the U.S. the healthiest nation, the American Public Health Association has released its 2009 Agenda for Health Reform. This document highlights the critical health system changes we must make to improve the public's health and calls on policymakers to shift from a focus on treating people once they are sick to preventing illness through clinical and community-based health services.

The agenda emphasizes the need to support programs that deliver resources to the whole community and are proven to achieve more positive health outcomes than do individual interventions alone. APHA also wants to ensure that we all have access to comprehensive, quality, affordable health care. This means covering the 46 million uninsured, and improving the quality and safety of the health system.

I encourage all Americans to support APHA's 2009 Agenda for Health Reform by writing their members of Congress and encouraging them to make public health a top priority in health reform legislation.

Visit www.apha.org/advocacy for more information.

[Insert your full name here] is [Insert your title/affiliation or other role in the public health field].

Contact **[Insert your full name here]** at **[Insert your contact information here]**.



Follow-Up

Please keep us informed of your advocacy efforts and how your policymakers feel about public health in health reform. Complete the following survey.

1. Please provide the following information:

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Section: _____

State Affiliate (if applicable): _____

2. Describe your advocacy activity, including the date and who you met with or spoke to. _____

3. Was the policymaker/staff member aware of APHA? Where they aware of the state affiliate?

4. What is the position of the policymaker on public health in health reform?

5. What are your policymaker's main concerns on this issue?

6. What does your policymaker hear from constituents on this issue?

7. Follow up needed from APHA staff:

8. Was this a positive experience for you?

Please return to: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, American Public Health Association, 800 I St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001 Fax: (202) 777-2532.

You can also fill out our online survey at: http://action.apha.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=1740
<http://action.apha.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=1740>



Additional Resources

Public health and policy websites

Visit APHA's *Better Health Now* webpage for up-to-date information and links to public health and policy websites: <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/now>

Relevant government websites

- Senate Committees with jurisdiction over health reform
 - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions: <http://help.senate.gov/>
 - Senate Committee on Finance: <http://finance.senate.gov/>
- House Committees with jurisdiction over health reform
 - House Committee on Energy and Commerce: <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
 - House Committee on Education and Labor: <http://edlabor.house.gov/>
 - House Committee on Ways and Means: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
- The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.healthreform.gov/>

Public health and policy blogs

- The Health Care Blog: <http://www.thehealthcareblog.com>
- Health Care Renewal: <http://hcrenewal.blogspot.com>
- Health Policy Watch: <http://www.healthpolicywatch.org>
- Effect Measure: <http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthmarketing/blog>
- Health Affairs Blog: <http://www.healthaffairs.org/blog>
- The Alan Katz Health Care Reform Blog: <http://alankatz.wordpress.com>
- Barack Obama's Blog: <http://www.barackobama.com/index.php>
- Wall Street Journal Health Blog: <http://blogs.wsj.com/health>