



JUN 4 2012

Office of the Surgeon General
Rockville, MD 20857

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Attn: Greg Kuhn
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

Thank you for your letter to the Office of the Surgeon General. I am happy that you are seeking to prevent potential diseases. Prevention was an important aspect of President Obama's Affordable Care Act, where he has called for the creation of the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council. Dr. Regina Benjamin, M/D., U. S. Surgeon General, chairs this historic Council that brings together 17 federal agencies to transform our society from one of sickness and disease to one of prevention and wellness. To achieve this end, the Council has released the National Prevention Strategy. This strategy is a plan for the nation to work with various federal, state, and local agencies and also with nonprofits and other aid organizations in order to make America healthier.

The National Prevention Strategy can be located online at the following address:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/prevention/nphpphc/strategy/report.pdf>.

We cannot answer a call to research the matter to which you are referring. It is not under the auspices of the Surgeon General's Office to accept external research requests.

Thank you for your concern with the public health of individuals. We applaud your initiative and leadership in helping to promote, protect, and advance the health and safety of our nation.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Bigley, Dr.P.H., M.S.N., A.N.P.
Acting Director
Division of Science and Communications