



August 9, 2017

Seema Verma, Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 124,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to request that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) review and, if necessary, revise coverage requirements of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) A and B recommendations. This request stems from a resolution adopted by the AAFP's policy-making body, the Congress of Delegates.

The AAFP believes that access to and coverage of preventive services leads to improved health and lower health care costs across all age groups. Further, the AAFP believes USPSTF A and B recommendations should be covered by all insurance plan types. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#),

"Focusing on preventing disease and illness before they occur will create healthier homes, workplaces, schools and communities so that people can live long and productive lives and reduce their healthcare costs. Better health positively impacts our communities and our economy:

- With better health, **children** are in school more days and are better able to learn. Numerous studies have found that regular physical activity supports better learning. Student fitness levels have been correlated with academic achievement, including improved math, reading and writing scores.
- With better health, **adults** are more productive and at work more days. Preventing disease increases productivity—asthma, high blood pressure, smoking and obesity each reduce annual productivity by between \$200 and \$440 per person.
- With better health, **seniors** keep their independence. Support for older adults who choose to remain in their homes and communities and retain their independence ("aging in place") helps promote and maintain positive mental and emotional health.

Investments in prevention across the life span complement and support treatment and care. Prevention policies and programs can be cost-effective, reduce health care costs, and improve productivity."

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The AAFP's [policy](#) on Preventive Medicine states in part, "health promotion and prevention of disease are critical and foundational components of primary care and family medicine. In support of its members, the AAFP advocates for policies that advance, stimulate, and facilitate the practice of preventive medicine."

The AAFP appreciates CMS' attention to this matter. If you or your staff have any questions about this matter or if we may further facilitate matters in this regard, please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or rbennett@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda D. Filer, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wanda D. Filer, MD, MBA, FAAFP
Board Chair