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APHA applauds Senate passage of Inflation Reduction Act



The passage of H.R. 5376, the Inflation Reduction Act, by the Senate signals a big positive step forward in safeguarding the nation's health. This vital legislation would safeguard the public from the health risks connected with climate change while also increasing access to comprehensive and affordable health care.

The Act provides large new investments to address climate change, transition to sustainable energy, and protect the public from this increasing health crisis, all while improving environmental justice by ensuring that the investments assist historically marginalized communities. The bill specifically includes \$370 billion in funding for long-term tax credits and other incentives for clean energy, home energy efficiency, clean transportation, an extension of tax credits for electric vehicles, investments to support clean energy manufacturing, and other investments to decarbonize the American economy. Importantly, the measure would reduce methane emissions by imposing additional levies on methane emissions from the oil and gas industries, as well as providing resources to monitor methane emissions and assist underprivileged populations affected by methane pollution.

The Inflation Reduction Act also contains major expenditures to extend and improve health care across the country, bringing us one step closer to attaining universal health coverage for all.

Importantly, the bill extends through 2025 the American Rescue Plan Act's enhanced premium tax credits for purchasing Affordable Care Act plans in the marketplace, providing more than 10 million people with more affordable health insurance coverage and preventing more than 3 million people from losing coverage. Furthermore, by allowing Medicare to directly bargain with drug manufacturers to cut the cost of some high-priced prescription pharmaceuticals, the law will help make prescription drugs more

affordable for consumers. Other Medicare patient advantages from the measure include a \$2,000 annual limit on out-of-pocket prescription medication expenses, restricting prescription price increases to the rate of inflation, and free immunizations for Medicare seniors.

The American Public Health Association applauds the Senate's decision, and with expected passage by the House, we look forward to President Biden signing the Inflation Reduction Act into law.

While the law is not perfect and does not address other essential APHA concerns, it is crucial legislation to enhance and safeguard the nation's health.

Reference link-

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Image link-

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