

## **American Heart Association**

*Increase preventive services to prevent coronary disease*

**Organization Description:** The American Heart Association and its division, the American Stroke Association (the Association), represents 22.5 million volunteers and supporters and is dedicated to reducing disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke. In working to fulfill its mission, the Association plans, coordinates and implements a federal, state and local legislative and regulatory program in conjunction with its affiliates.

**Proposal Summary:** The American Heart Association's primary mission is to increase the amount of funding for chronic disease prevention campaigns. It advocates for better designed communities that promote a more active and healthy population. Additionally, it believes that all U.S. citizens should have access to basic medical care by offering universal health coverage and access for all individuals.

- **Coverage:** The American Heart Association aims to ensure that all U.S. residents have access to and coverage for quality health care, regardless of population differences. They believe universal coverage for basic medical care should be available to all U.S. residents. Furthermore, residents should have prompt access to appropriate and affordable quality medical care, particularly for cardiovascular diseases and stroke.
- **Wellness and Prevention:** The American Heart Association advocates for increased federal funding for the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) activities that focus on chronic disease prevention and school-based health.

The Association has determined that both physical inactivity and obesity are major risk factors for cardiovascular disease and contribute to the risk of stroke. Therefore, the Association supports increasing the percentage of communities providing accessible physical activity to their citizens. Promoting physical activity helps people maintain a healthy weight and helps control other risk factors (such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia and diabetes).

- **Other:** The American Heart Association adopted an organizational goal to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke by 25 percent by the year 2010.

**Proposal Date:** 2003-2006

Source: American Heart Association Public Policy Agenda,  
<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1064>.