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June 13, 2018

Christine Wood, RDH, BS
ASTDD Executive Director
3858 Cashill Boulevard
Reno, NV 89509

Dear Ms. Wood:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) enthusiastically supports the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors' (ASTDD) application for CDC-RFA-DP18-1811 Partner Actions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes, specifically for Component 1, to build the strength of state and territorial oral health programs and to enhance their effectiveness at preventing and controlling oral diseases and related conditions. ASTDD's work will focus on conducting state oral health program assessments and strategies for providing technical assistance (TA) and capacity-building resources for states and conducting assessments of territorial oral health programs. ASTDD's efforts are consistent with ASTHO's mission to support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being. ASTHO has enjoyed a longstanding collaborative relationship with ASTDD, an ASTHO affiliate. Most recently, ASTHO is collaborating with ASTDD to update ASTHO's Oral Health Policy Statement which details guidance and recommendations for state health and federal agencies to improve oral health for their populations.

ASTHO believes that ASTDD and its membership are equipped and well positioned to implement priority strategies to build the strength and effectiveness of state and territorial oral health programs to prevent and control oral diseases and related conditions. ASTHO, as appropriate, will support ASTDD's efforts in capacity building, disseminate project-related findings, share information resources, participate on committees and workgroups, and provide expertise and technical assistance as requested. We look forward to continuing our collaboration as they work with State and Territorial Dental Directors to expand access to oral health for all and improve population health broadly, given connections between oral health and other health outcomes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at 571-527-3145 or by email at cmackie@astho.org.

Sincerely,



Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
Executive Director