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February 7, 2018

Hemi Tewarson, Division Director, Health Division  
National Governors Association Center for Best Practices  
444 N. Capitol St. NW Suite 267  
Washington DC, 20001

Dear Ms. Tewarson,

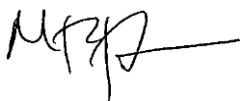
On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) we enthusiastically support the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices' (NGA Center) proposal for the *Supporting State Maternal and Child Health Policy Innovation Program* from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), for which ASTHO is also applying. The NGA Center plays a critical role in supporting governors' efforts to identify and implement best practices to improve systems of care for mothers and children. ASTHO commits to collaborating and coordinating with the NGA Center on activities of mutual benefit, as feasible throughout the grant period.

The NGA Center is the only policy research and development firm that directly serves the nation's governors by developing innovative solutions to today's most pressing public policy challenges. Governors and their senior leaders rely on the NGA Center to provide tailored technical assistance for challenges facing their states, identify and share best practices from across the country, and serve as an information clearinghouse for an array of gubernatorial initiatives. The NGA Center quickly informs governors and senior state officials on what works, what does not, and what lessons can be learned from others grappling with similar issues.

The NGA Center has enjoyed a long and successful collaborative working relationship with ASTHO, including on issues related to maternal and child health. As partners in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's *Alliance for Innovation in Maternal and Child Health Initiative*, our organizations have worked on many joint projects, including planning and conducting several multi-state team meetings and sharing resources for our respective members. Our collaborative work has strengthened both of our organizations' capacities and has also brought our members together to work on common goals.

We wish you the best in this grant application and ASTHO looks forward to continuing our relationship, coordinating where appropriate, including sharing information and resources, communicating, where needed, on state selection for projects, and supporting each other's work on this project, as appropriate.

Sincerely,



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