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January 29, 2018

Trish Riley  
Executive Director  
National Academy for State Health Policy  
1233 20th St., N.W., Suite 303  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Riley:


The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to provide this letter of support and commitment to the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) for its proposal to the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (MCHB, HRSA) for the Supporting State Maternal and Child Health Policy Innovation Program. As an independent academy of state health policymakers dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice, NASHP is uniquely poised to support state leaders, particularly state Medicaid agencies, in advancing state-level policy initiatives that improve access to quality health care for the maternal and child health (MCH) population. For over 30 years, NASHP has convened state leaders to solve problems and share solutions, conducted policy analyses and research on emergent and emerging policy innovations including MCH policy, disseminated information on state policies and programs, and provided technical assistance to states.

ASTHO values its partnership with NASHP overall and as part of our work on the MCHB, HRSA Alliance for Innovation on Maternal and Child Health (AIM) initiative and other projects. ASTHO and NASHP staff have worked to plan and implement national, multi-state AIM meetings. Our organizations partnered with the National Institute for Child Health Quality on the Infant Mortality CoIN. Additionally, NASHP worked with ASTHO on a paper, *Blending, Braiding, and Block-Granting Funds for Public Health and Prevention: Implications for States*.

If NASHP's application is funded, ASTHO would continue to partner with NASHP on this work including participation in a project advisory committee and ongoing coordination of project activities such as annual in-person meetings of state leaders and technical assistance to states.

We wish you success with your application and look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,



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