

October 18, 2019

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, and Members of the Conference Committee:

The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to prioritize funding for public health in upcoming negotiations on the final FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill. Public health funding simply has not kept pace with the requirements for our mission. Governmental public health systems are crumbling at every level due to ongoing underfunding and a growing population.

ASTHO's "22x22" campaign, endorsed by nearly 100 national organizations, urges Congress to increase funding for CDC by 22 percent by FY22. We request **\$8.3 billion for CDC overall in FY20**. This increase is important because American life expectancy has declined due to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and drug overdoses. Federal investment in public health has not kept pace with either inflation or the considerable challenges posed by infectious disease outbreaks, extreme weather events, and other emergencies. The 22x22 campaign is an effort to bolster CDC's funding over the next four years to eventually reach \$8.8 billion for the agency by FY22. We also urge you to support **\$8.56 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration** in the final FY20 legislation.

In addition to these topline allocations, we strongly urge Congress to prioritize funding for the public health programs included in the attached [FY20 Governmental Public Health Appropriations Book](#). This book compiles top federal funding priorities and recommendations for nonprofit public health associations in FY20. We also strongly urge you to support the following:

- **Allocating \$50 million for the Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund.** These funds are critical for public health responses that demand a timely influx of funding and save lives.
- We strongly support the **\$49.5 million** that HHS needs to sustain the ongoing operations of the **Regional Treatment Network for Ebola and other Special Pathogens** and the **National Ebola Training and Education Center**. Funding for these programs is set to expire in May 2020.

In addition to these priorities, ASTHO is proud [to support our affiliates](#) and their funding requests for public health data/IT systems modernization, biosafety security, chronic disease, epidemiology and laboratory capacity, HIV and hepatitis programs, immunization, injury and violence prevention, maternal and child health, oral health, sexually transmitted disease prevention, vector-borne disease control, and

vital statistics. You can find more information in our [FY20 Governmental Public Health Appropriations Book](#).

Public health sorely needs investments, especially as the United States faces limited resources and evolving and emerging threats, such as the recent measles outbreak and pulmonary illnesses associated with vaping. Level funding public health programs in FY20 will further complicate federal, state, and local responses to these evolving public health threats, in addition to hindering their daily mission to protect and promote the health of all Americans.

We look forward to working with you to enact into law this year the highest funding levels possible. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Carolyn Mullen (cmullen@astho.org), chief of government affairs and public relations at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

Sincerely,

Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of State and Territorial Public Health Social Workers (ASTPHSW)
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
NASTAD
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officials
Safe States Alliance