

National Headquarters
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www.astho.org
@ASTHO

January 17, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chair
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable, Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Blunt, Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Murray, and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), I am writing to thank you for providing a significant investment in public health funding in the FY20 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriation bill. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and those of your staff to craft a bill that sends a clear message to the American people: now is the time to invest in the agencies and programs designed to protect and promote the health of the entire population.

In particular, we applaud the subcommittee's commitment to increase the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) topline funding level \$636 million above FY19. This funding level aligns with 22X22, a campaign led by ASTHO and nearly 100 organizations, which aims to increase CDC's topline funding level to \$8.8 billion or 22 percent by FY22.

Increased investments in public health are sorely needed. The FY20 LHHS bill reflects the urgency that state, territorial, and local public health departments face in addressing the ongoing substance use and misuse crisis, reducing rates of HIV transmission, improving data infrastructure, and providing the necessary resources to continue to address chronic disease prevention and health promotion.

We are also grateful for the bill's increased investment in the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program and continued funding of the national Ebola training and education center, as well as other special pathogen treatment centers. In addition, ASTHO is pleased to see increased topline allocations for both SAMHSA and HRSA.

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In the upcoming year we look forward to working with the committee to increase the topline funding allocation to \$8.3 billion for CDC in FY21 and increase investments for their preparedness programs.

Thank you for your continued commitment to state and territorial public health programs and we look forward to partnering with you in the upcoming year to bring optimal health to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Fraser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
Chief Executive Officer
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials