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March 13, 2020

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

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

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), I am writing to thank you for providing the critical emergency supplemental funding included in the Coronavirus Preparedness Emergency and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. As state, territorial, and local health departments respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), this funding will work to protect the health of all Americans. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and those of your staff to craft a bill that prioritized funding for state, territorial, and local health departments begin to respond to this public health emergency.

In particular, we are grateful for the \$2.2 billion total dollars and the baseline amount of \$950 million for state and local public health departments of which \$475 million must be allocated within 30 days. This funding level allows public health departments for sustained and robust efforts to detect, respond, and mitigate COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued commitment to state and territorial public health programs. We look forward to working with Congress to continue conversations about the needs of public health departments as the COVID-19 response evolves.

Sincerely,



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