

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Baldwin and Ranking Members DeLauro and Capito:

The undersigned 77 state and national public health, environmental health and other supporting organizations write to you to express our support for increased funding for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health in the FY 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

As Congress moves forward with the appropriations process for FY 2025, we urge you to provide \$420.85 million to NCEH to ensure all of its programs are adequately funded. This funding will help ensure the center can work to strengthen and expand its programs including:

- Improving environmental health surveillance by expanding the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to a true nationwide network. Current funding only allows the program to provide funding to 33 state and local health departments.
- Expanding critically underfunded childhood lead poisoning prevention activities by increasing funding for CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program which will allow CDC to provide grants to all 50 states and currently funded localities for surveillance to determine the extent of childhood lead poisoning, as well as educate the public and health care providers about lead poisoning and ensure that lead-exposed children received needed medical and environmental follow-up services.
- Expanding the National Biomonitoring Network by providing additional resources to increase the number of states that can undertake state population-based biomonitoring surveillance. Communities continue to express concern about exposure to chemicals in our everyday lives and during environmental emergencies, yet we are often unable to provide data about these exposures at the state and local level.

- Strengthening and expanding funding to additional states under the National Asthma Control Program that tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention and builds capacity in state programs. It is estimated that more than 25 million Americans currently have asthma, including more than 4.2 million children. The program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased.
- Expanding the Climate and Health Program that currently funds eleven health departments (nine state and two local), three tribes, the University of Florida and the Puerto Rico Public Health Trust to help diagnose and prepare for the serious adverse health impacts of climate change including extreme heat, more severe weather, floods, droughts, increases in air pollution and pollen and the spread of infectious and vector-borne diseases – such as Lyme disease and dengue fever. Increased funding will allow CDC to implement a 50-state program, provide support to additional tribes, territories, cities and counties and help to identify which interventions most effectively protect the public from the negative health effects of climate change.
- Supporting CDC and health departments to conduct cancer studies across the nation using CDC’s guidelines. Increased funding at NCEH will also support and expand laboratory studies into the human health impacts of exposure to hazardous substances and expand our understanding of which exposures may cause or contribute to the development of different cancers in the population.

Increasing our investments in environmental health prevention activities today will help reduce illness, disease, injury, health disparities and even death. Relying solely on our health care system to tackle the dangerous problems – dirty air and water, toxic substances, lead poisoning, climate change and extreme weather and many other environmental hazards – that occur outside the walls of the clinic is a costly and ineffective solution. However, adequate investments today and into the future in core environmental health activities can be a critical down payment on health, productivity and happiness of countless Americans. We thank you for considering this recommendation of \$420.85 million for NCEH and we look forward to working with you as you move forward with the FY 2025 appropriations process.

Please contact Don Hoppert at donald.hoppert@apha.org or 202-777-2514 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Academy of Pediatrics - Colorado Chapter
 American Academy of Pediatrics Iowa Chapter
 American Academy of Pediatrics, California
 American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter
 American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter
 American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Association for Diagnostics and Laboratory Medicine
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Common Threads
Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
District of Columbia Public Health Association
Entomological Society of America
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.
Florida Public Health Organization
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Hawaii Public Health Association
Health Resources in Action
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Indiana Public Health Association
International WELL Building Institute
Kitsap Public Health District
KY Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Public Health Association
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP)
Michigan Public Health Association
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Environmental Health Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Public Health Association
NH Academy of Family Physicians
NH Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
NH Chapter American College of Physicians
NH Osteopathic Association

Ohio Public Health Association
Oregon Public Health Association
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Public Health Institute
SC Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
South Dakota Public Health Association
Texas Pediatric Society
The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy Pediatrics
The Rhode Island Public Health Association
Trust for America's Health
Vermont Public Health Association
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

cc: Members of the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees