

May 14, 2025

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 Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

The undersigned 73 state and national public health, environmental health and other supporting organizations write to you to express our support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health in the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We are strongly opposed to the efforts by the administration to eliminate programs within the center, including those related to asthma prevention, childhood lead poisoning prevention, environmental health tracking, water safety, food safety, air quality, emergency response to natural disasters and climate-related events and understanding the health impacts of radiation exposure.

As Congress moves forward with the appropriations process for FY 2026, we urge you to reject the proposed NCEH program eliminations and instead 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 to more states and communities including:

- Improving surveillance of environmental health threats by expanding the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to a true nationwide network.
- Preserving and expanding childhood lead poisoning prevention activities through CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which will allow for surveillance to determine the extent of childhood lead poisoning, educate the public and health care providers about lead poisoning and ensure that lead-exposed children received needed follow-up services.
- Preserving the National Biomonitoring Network, expanding the number of states that can undertake state population-based surveillance of chemicals and toxics. Communities are concerned about exposure to chemicals, yet underfunding limits the availability of data about these exposures at the state and local level.

- Restore and strengthen the National Asthma Control Program that tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma prevention and builds capacity in state programs. It is estimated that more than 27 million Americans currently have asthma, including more than 4.8 million children. Asthma can be a fatal disease, but due to the success of this program asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased, despite an increase in asthma prevalence.
- Restoring the Climate and Health Program that helps states, localities and tribes diagnose and prepare for the serious adverse health impacts their residents face from extreme heat, more severe weather, floods, droughts, wildfires, worse allergy seasons and the spread vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and dengue fever. Communities cannot be left without support when environmental disasters strike, and this is the only program across the federal government that provides resources for a public health response when these disasters hit.
- Supporting CDC and health departments to conduct cancer studies across the nation using CDC's guidelines. NCEH can support and expand laboratory studies into the human health impacts of exposure to toxic substances and expand our understanding of which exposures may cause or contribute to the development of different cancers in the population.

Investments in environmental health prevention activities reduce illness, disease, injury and death. Relying solely on our health care system to address the health impacts of dangerous problems, including dirty air and water, toxic substances, lead poisoning, environmental disasters is a costly and ineffective solution. 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 2026 appropriations process and again urge you to reject efforts to eliminate or weaken any of the important programs within NCEH.

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

Sincerely,

Allergy and Asthma Network
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
 American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 American College of Chest Physicians
 American College of Medical Toxicology
 American Lung Association
 American Public Health Association
 American Thoracic Society
 Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
 Arizona Public Health Association
 Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Big Cities Health Organization
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Delaware Academy of Medicine/Delaware Public Health Assn.
Entomological Society of America
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.
Foundation for Healthy Generations
GO2 for Lung Cancer
Health E Strategies LLC
Healthy Teen Network
Heluna Health
Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Indiana Public Health Association
Institute for Public Health Innovation
International WELL Building Institute
KY Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Public Health Association
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Public Health Association
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Chapter, American academy of Pediatrics
Mississippi Public Health Association
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Environmental Health Association
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
NC Public Health Association
Nevada Public Health Association
New Mexico Pediatric Society
Oklahoma Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Society for Public Health Education
South Dakota Public Health Association

Southern California Public Health Association
Tennessee Public Health Association
Texas Pediatric Society
The Oregon Public Health Association
Trust for America's Health
Utah Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Utah Public Health Association
Vermont Public Health Association
Washington State Public Health Association
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
YWCA Champaign County

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