

September 13, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Labor, HHS, Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Senate Labor, HHS, Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Labor, HHS, Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Walsh
Ranking Member
House Labor, HHS, Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Harkin and Specter and Congressmen Obey and Walsh:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I would like to urge you to support programs that strengthen local health departments and safeguard the public's health as you craft a final FY2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill.

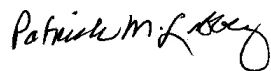
We urge conference negotiators to adopt the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed number of \$760 million for state and local emergency preparedness. This is equal to the funding passed in FY2007 for emergency preparedness. A recent survey report released by NACCHO documents that continued cuts in funding provided through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) threaten important, hard-won advances made in recent years in response planning to natural disasters, bio-terrorism events, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies.

We would also like to encourage conference negotiators to include the House-passed amounts for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (\$109 million), the Section 317 Immunization program (\$599 million) and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (\$750 million).

These programs are vital to continuing efforts at the local level to strengthen emergency preparedness, prevent chronic disease, ensure that low-income children and adults have access to immunizations, and provide important preventive health care to children and pregnant women.

We are grateful for your longstanding support of public health and look forward to working with you to sustain these important programs. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Libbey
Executive Director

