



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACCHO Board President Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH Testified Today in Support of the Reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act

Washington, DC, June 6, 2018 — Dr. Umair A. Shah, President of the Board of the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), and Executive director of [Harris County Public Health](#) (HCPH) in Texas, testified today before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Health Subcommittee voicing NACCHO's continued support of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. The programs authorized by the Act are vital to local health departments.

Here is a portion of Dr. Shah's remarks:

"Public health emergency preparedness is truly national health security. Local health departments play an essential role in ensuring that people and their communities are prepared for, protected from, and are resilient to threats to health that result from all forms of disasters and emergencies. Since all disasters begin and end locally, local health departments must always be prepared to assume our role as first responders to any public health emergency. To this end, local health departments regularly host trainings and exercises to prepare staff and numerous community partners – including those in the healthcare system – for public health emergencies, to build consistent and ongoing communication amongst partners, clearly define response roles, and anticipate challenges

before an emergency occurs. And when disasters arise, local health departments coast-to-coast are the ‘boots on the ground’ responding to and helping communities recover.

“The programs authorized by the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act are vital to local health departments. The proposed bill ‘Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2018’ authored by Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN) is an important step in ensuring local health departments can protect the health and safety of their communities in the event of an emergency. I firmly believe that the funding PAHPA has provided saved lives in each major 2017 disaster, as well as small and other large-scale emergencies over the years in local communities across our country.”

To read Dr. Shah’s complete testimony including a listing of NACCHO’s recommendations, please click [here](#).

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.