

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Vice Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services & Education  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services & Education  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Representatives Lowey and DeLauro:

On behalf of nearly 3,000 local health departments, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) strongly urges you to enact final, omnibus spending legislation for FY2018 that includes all spending bills, especially the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill (Labor-HHS). As the largest of the nondefense discretionary spending bills, and the bill that touches all Americans, the Labor-HHS bill should have an increase in its allocation proportional to its size and scope of impact, include all funding available through budgetary savings in mandatory programs, and be free of ideological policy riders that undermine efforts to protect and improve public health.

In particular, local health departments are anxious to see a continuation of funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP), which has shown impressive results in bringing down teen pregnancy rates. Since its inception, TPPP has been grounded in evidence-based research and provides important funding to diverse organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy in the U.S. It funds both the implementation and evaluation of new and innovative approaches to reduce teen pregnancy. While there has been a significant decline in these rates in the U.S. to about 20.3 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 in 2016, this rate is still substantially higher than other industrialized nations. Additionally, racial/ethnic and geographic disparities in teen birth rates persist and need to be addressed to make sure all teens have a chance for a healthy start to their adult lives. Ending what was intended to be five year TPPP grants two years early, the Administration abruptly disrupted ongoing work in localities across the country. Congress should reverse this action without delay.

NACCHO also calls on Congress to move swiftly to address the ongoing public health emergency of the opioid epidemic. We were pleased to see \$6 billion for opioids included in the recent Bipartisan Budget Act. As you consider the appropriation of additional funding aimed at combatting the nation's opioid epidemic, we ask you to support a comprehensive response by providing **\$500 million in FY2018 and the same or greater amount in FY2019 in additional funding** to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for opioid overdose prevention efforts.



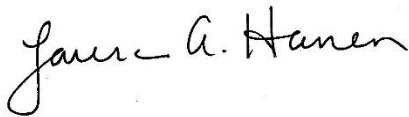
These funds would allow the CDC and state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments to do the following activities:

- Improve Monitoring and Surveillance of Opioid Use and Misuse
- Expand and Strengthen Evidence-Based Prevention and Education Strategies to Slow the Epidemic
- Manage Appropriate Access to Opioids

Additionally, NACCHO is concerned that ongoing funding to public health emergency preparedness, immunization and other critical funding needed to protect communities is jeopardized the longer HHS goes without clear direction from Congress about its priorities in the public health arena.

Please contact Eli Briggs, NACCHO Senior Director of Government Affairs at [ebiggs@naccho.org](mailto:ebiggs@naccho.org) should you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Hanen, MPP  
Interim Executive Director  
& Chief of Government Affairs



William Barnes, PhD, MBA  
Interim Executive Director  
& Chief Program Officer