

# NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

September 18, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

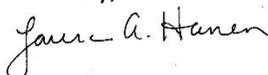
The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) opposes the current version of the proposal to replace the Affordable Care Act being circulated by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA). As the voice of local health departments that protect the public across our nation, NACCHO respectfully requests your continued support for vital public health programs currently funded through the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). NACCHO and local health departments are concerned that long-standing public health programs are in jeopardy due to elimination of the PPHF in FY2019 in this proposal.

The potential loss of hundreds of millions of dollars for public health would have repercussions in communities across the country, hampering efforts to respond to food borne outbreaks, prevent emerging infectious diseases like Ebola and Zika, and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies. Among the programs at risk at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are the 317 Immunization Program, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program, and Diabetes Prevention program, among others. The PPHF provides vital resources to governmental public health at the federal, state, and local levels, and its elimination will serve to further erode our public health system.

Public health leaders are also concerned that the Graham-Cassidy proposal would block grant many of the current ACA protections, which provide access to primary and emergency care to millions of Americans. Erosion of the essential benefits package would jeopardize access to primary prevention services, including immunizations, mammograms and other health screening tests. A full package of prevention services is necessary to make sure that diseases are prevented effectively and skyrocketing health care costs are reined in by keeping people as healthy as possible.

NACCHO urges you to sustain current investments in public health and prevention. To rein in costs and save lives, our nation needs a strong public health system with the capacity to promote health, prevent illness, and treat disease.

Sincerely,



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

