

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services &  
Education Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services &  
Education Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Representatives Lowey and DeLauro:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials and nearly 3,000 local health departments that work every day to protect and promote health for all people in their communities, thank you for your support of programs central to the public's health in the final FY2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS) spending package.

NACCHO appreciates your support of many programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies that protect public health. In particular, NACCHO highlights the importance of programs in the areas listed below.

**Emergency Preparedness**

***CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program - \$675 million***

The public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) grant program provides funding to strengthen local and state public health departments' capacity and capability to effectively respond to public health emergencies, including terrorist threats, infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological emergencies.

***ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program - \$265 million***

The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) administered by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is the only source of federal funding that supports regional health system preparedness and enables health care systems to coordinate with public health professionals and save lives during emergencies.

***ASPR Medical Reserve Corps - \$6 million***

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) administered by ASPR was created in 2002 after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to establish a way for medical, public health, and other volunteers to address local health and

preparedness needs. The program includes 200,000 volunteers enrolled in 1,000 units in all 50 states and US territories. Two-thirds of MRC units are based in local health departments.

### **Infectious Disease Prevention**

#### ***CDC Immunization Program - \$611 million***

The CDC Immunization Program funds 50 states, six large cities (Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio and Washington, D.C.) and eight territories for vaccine purchase for at-need populations and immunization program operations, including support for implementing billing systems for immunization services at public health clinics that sustain high levels of vaccine coverage. Immunizations continue to be one of the most cost-effective public health interventions.

#### ***Infectious Disease Rapid Response Fund - \$50 million***

The infectious disease rapid response fund created in the FY2019 LHHS bill recognizes the need to prepare for unexpected infectious disease outbreaks, as was demonstrated in recent years with Zika and Ebola. This funding will help to ensure that the public health response to an outbreak is not hampered by a lack of support in the initial phase of the response.

#### ***HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention***

Thank you for appropriating funds for a new initiative aimed at Infectious Diseases and the Opioid Epidemic (\$5 million) to support efforts to address HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, sexually-transmitted infections, and tuberculosis in high-risk states and jurisdictions, including those with high rates of opioid-related transmission.

#### ***Epidemiology and Lab Capacity - \$40 million from Prevention and Public Health Fund***

The Epidemiology and Lab Capacity (ELC) grant program is a single grant vehicle for multiple programmatic initiatives that go to 50 state health departments, six large cities (Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles County, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.), Puerto Rico, and the Republic of Palau. The ELC grants strengthen local and state capacity to contain infectious disease threats by detecting, tracking and responding in a timely manner and maintaining core capacity to be the nation's public health eyes and ears on the ground.

### **Injury Prevention**

#### ***CDC Opioid Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) Prevention - \$476 million***

CDC's prescription drug overdose (PDO) prevention and surveillance program builds on previous state PDO prevention activities and provides expanded technical assistance to health departments as they grapple with this epidemic. Thank you for recognizing that funding must reach local communities on the frontlines addressing this national crisis by including language in the joint explanatory statement directing that local health departments should be eligible for grants.

### **Public Health Capacity**

#### ***Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant - \$160 million***

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is a vital source of funding for state and local public health departments. This unique funding gives states the autonomy and flexibility to solve state problems and provide similar support to local communities, while still being held accountable for demonstrating the local, state, and national impact of this investment.

**Chronic Disease Prevention**

***Diabetes Prevention & Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention***

NACCHO appreciates the Congress' rejection of the Administration's proposed America's Health Block Grant of \$500 million for all chronic disease programs at CDC. The CDC funds diabetes prevention and control activities in all 50 states and Washington, DC. The Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention program supports evidence-based programs in all 50 states and Washington, DC.

**Child Health and Development**

***Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Mothers and Babies - \$10 million***

The Zika virus epidemic of 2016 demonstrated a gap in knowledge and capacity to detect and stop prenatal threats to infants due to infectious diseases. Continued funding will support a network of public health professionals in local communities to work with families to assess and respond to the Zika threat to their children.

**Health Resources and Services Administration**

***Title X Family Planning Program - \$287 million***

For many low-income individuals, uninsured or adolescents, the Title X program is essential to affordably receive critical family planning services such as birth control, cancer screening, sexually transmitted infection (STI) tests and other basic care. Title X patients are disproportionately low-income and young; about one-third identify as people of color, and about one in 10 have limited English proficiency. More than half of Title X grantees are local health departments.

**HHS Office of Adolescent Health**

***Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program - \$101 million***

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) program supports community-driven, evidence-based or informed, medically accurate, and age-appropriate approaches to preventing pregnancy among adolescents, involving parents, educators, researchers, and providers. Many of the TPPP grantees are local health departments working to support teens in their communities.

Thank you again for your support of these programs that protect the public's health and safety. Please contact Eli Briggs, Senior Director of Government Affairs at 202-507-4194 or [ebriggs@naccho.org](mailto:ebriggs@naccho.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer