



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACCHO Supports Policies That Protect Families

Washington, DC, June 20, 2018 — The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#), representing nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments across the country, strongly asserts that policies that separate children from their parents or guardians and house them in ways that are inadequate are adverse to the mental and physical health for both individuals and communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Kaiser [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) (ACEs) studies have shown childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. ACEs have been linked to risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low-life potential, and early death, such experiences lead to important public health consequences for individuals of all ages: infants, children, and adults.

NACCHO supports federal policies that keep families together and applauds the efforts to do so. Separating families, creates negative health impacts on infants, children, and other family members. “As a physician,” said Dr. Umair A. Shah, President of NACCHO, I am keenly aware of the damage -- neurologic, physical, and psychological, that families may have due to the long-term effects of trauma. It is imperative to the public health of our communities that families remain intact.”

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local 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.