

November 18, 2025

Dear Chair Aderholt, Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, and
Ranking Member DeLauro:

The United States continues to face a multitude of public health crises, but despite the growing threats to our nation's health and security, public health programs remain underfunded. The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) writes today to urge that Congress provide the highest funding level possible for the critical public health initiatives that safeguard our country's well-being and save taxpayer dollars over time as you work to finalize fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations, including for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and other essential public health programs.

ASPPH represents more than 155 accredited schools and programs of public health, including a community of more than 103,000 deans, faculty, staff, and students. As the leading voice of academic public health – we train the next generation of public health professionals, convene leaders, generate evidence, and advocate for policies that improve the health and well-being of everyone, everywhere.

As you reconcile the differences between the House and Senate bills, we support the Senate version of the bill, and we specifically request the following in the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS-ED) appropriations bill:

National Institutes of Health (NIH): We are grateful for bipartisan support for continuous increases to the NIH budget and request at least \$47.2 billion (the FY 2026 Senate level) for ongoing work of Institutes and Centers. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the primary federal agency responsible for supporting public health research and training programs. Through a variety of initiatives, the NIH works to ensure that public health schools and programs have access to the resources they need to conduct meaningful research and train the next generation of public health professionals. The NIH awards research grants to universities and other institutions to advance public health research and training. NIH works to foster collaboration among public health schools and programs, and to ensure the availability of high-

Board of Directors

Chair

Hilary A. Godwin, PhD
University of Washington
School of Public Health

President and CEO

Laura Magaña, PhD, MS
Association of Schools and Programs
of Public Health

Chair-Elect

Edith Parker, DrPH, MPH
University of Iowa College of Public Health

Immediate-Past Chair

Thomas A. LaVeist, PhD
Tulane University
School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Secretary/Treasurer

Ali S. Khan, MD, MPH
University of Nebraska
Medical Center College of Public Health

At-Large Members

Lisa A. Benz Scott, PhD
Stony Brook University
Program in Public Health

David Makram Bishai, PhD, MD, MPH
University of Hong Kong School of Public Health

Bernadette Boden-Albala, MPH, DrPH
UC Irvine
Joe C. Wen School of Population & Public Health

Marsha Davis, PhD
University of Georgia College of Public Health

Daniele Fallin, PhD
Emory University
Rollins School of Public Health

Cynthia M. Harris, PhD, MA
Florida A&M University Public Health Program

Ashish Joshi, PhD, MBBS, MPH
University of Memphis School of Public Health

Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, RADM, USPHS (Ret)
University of Maryland School of Public Health

Rodney S. Lyn, PhD, MS
Georgia State University School of Public Health

Christopher P. Morley, PhD
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Public Health Program

Melinda M. Pettigrew, PhD
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Brad H. Pollock, PhD, MPH, FACE
University of California, Davis
Public Health Program

quality public health research and training programs.

ASPPH greatly appreciates that both the House and Senate bills continued funding, \$95.2 million, for the Fogarty International Center (FIC) at NIH, rejecting the budget proposal to eliminate the Center and supporting the mission of FIC through committee report language. FIC funding is an investment in the medical, scientific and public health capacity of low- and middle- income countries (LMICs), which isn't just humanitarian but also a strategic imperative for U.S. national security and public health in our local communities.

Within the total amount for NIH, ASPPH requests:

- The continuation of Section 224 of the FY 2024 Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Act to prohibit changes to NIH Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost reimbursements in the final FY 2026 Appropriations bill.

ASPPH continues to be deeply concerned with NIH's policy changes to F&A rates. Capping F&A costs at 15% threatens the infrastructure that is critical for groundbreaking research, including laboratory maintenance, compliance oversight, and essential administrative functions. ASPPH members train future public health leaders, researchers, and practitioners to protect and enhance lives. Much of their research funding comes from the NIH under negotiated agreements covering direct and indirect costs. Abrupt changes to F&A funding also threatens to undermine the foundation of academic public health and jeopardizes health advancements, innovation, and economic growth.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): We respectfully request at least the Senate program level of \$9.2 billion to allow the CDC to fully carry out its mission to protect the U.S. from health, safety, and security threats. The agency's work is critical to ensure better health outcomes across the country and abroad. We must proactively make investments at CDC to effectively detect and respond to future emerging health threats, develop and sustain a strong public health workforce, and promote healthy communities through prevention.

Within the total amount for CDC, ASPPH requests:

- **Prevention Research Centers (PRCs), \$29 million, the Senate funding level.** The PRCs are a national network of academic research centers dedicated to prevention research and translating findings into policy and public health practice. By collaborating with communities, health departments, and other partners, PRCs address local health needs through impactful research. For every \$1 received from the CDC, PRCs have generated an average of \$4.85 in additional funding, enabling them to conduct hundreds of studies annually on issues like cancer, substance abuse, and obesity.
- **CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA), \$50 million, the Senate funding level.** CFA has already improved data modernization, which enables the work of CFA to

model and predict outbreaks to help improve infectious disease preparedness and response. CFA is already transforming our disease modeling capabilities and using data and processes established by advancing data modernization with the initial funds received. Most of this work is being conducted by the CDC Insight Network, which includes many schools of public health.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): ASPPH requests at least \$9.1 billion at HRSA, the Senate level, to support programs within the agency that are critical to ensuring an adequately trained public health workforce. This funding is important to prepare the next generation of public health workers, with schools and programs of public health at the forefront. Within the total amount for HRSA, we request:

- **Public Health Training Centers, funded within the Public Health and Preventive Medicine program, at least the Senate level of \$18 million.** Funding is critical to support 10 Regional Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs), located at top universities throughout the United States, especially as public health demands increase. These Centers help grow, train, and retain public health staff locally, including in rural areas, while also helping to support local economies through creating more jobs.

Other programs, initiatives, and agencies ASPPH advocates for within the FY 2026 Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill include:

- **The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), at least \$345.4 million, the Senate level.** AHRQ is the only federal agency that funds research at universities and other research institutions, specifically on health systems. This includes research that takes into account the “real-life” patient who has complex comorbidities, as well as intersections with aspects of the overall health care system including meeting public health needs.
- **We also urge you to include the Cure Hepatitis C Act (S.1941), which would call for \$9.4 billion in total mandatory spending over 10 years.** With inclusion of significant health care cost savings by avoiding expensive treatments, the net savings to the federal government, according to the CBO, are \$6.6 billion. At least 2.4 million Americans currently suffer from chronic hepatitis C, and many of those lack access to the cure that can be provided in just 8 -12 weeks from a safe and highly effective direct-acting antiviral drug. Hepatitis C is also the most common cause of liver cancer, which is one of the few cancers with a decreasing survival rate today. This program is a chance to eliminate a devastating disease through a classic public health approach of testing vulnerable populations and providing point-of-care treatment to those who test positive. This effort would reduce healthcare costs, enabling the program to pay for itself.

We understand the difficult fiscal environment and the challenge set before you as you prepare to negotiate the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations bills. Public health programs are fundamental to national security, economic stability, and the overall health of the American people. We urge you to champion these investments and make it clear that investing in public health is essential

towards keeping our nation healthy. The time for action is now—before the next public health crisis forces us to pay an even greater price for our inaction.

On behalf of the 155 schools and programs of public health, representing 11,000 faculty and over 81,000 students, we strongly support your legislative efforts during the appropriations process, and stand ready to assist you and your staff with additional information and resources from across our institutions. Please feel free to contact ASPPH's Director of Advocacy, Beeta Rasouli at brasouli@aspvh.org or 202-534-2389 with questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Leshan

Tim Leshan
Chief External Relations and Advocacy Officer
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health