

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), we thank you for your continued bipartisan leadership in advancing the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS-ED) appropriations bill. Your steadfast support for public health programs is fundamental to national security, economic stability, and the overall health of the American people.

ASPPH represents more than 150 accredited schools and programs of public health and a community of more than 100,000 deans, faculty, staff, and students. Our institutions provide public health education, workforce development, and research that translate evidence into action.

## Board of Directors

### Chair

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

### President and CEO

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

### Chair-Elect

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

### Immediate-Past Chair

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

### 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

**Shawn Gibbs, PhD, MBA, CIH**  
Texas A&M School of Public Health

**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

**Nancy Messonnier, MD**  
University of North Carolina  
Gillings School of Global Public Health

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

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

As you begin working on the fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations bill, we urge you to build on the progress made in prior fiscal years and ensure sustained, robust investments in the federal public health infrastructure. These investments lead to measurable improvements in health outcomes across the country and around the globe. Sustainable funding for public health programs and education is fundamental to national security, economic security, and the overall health of the American people.

Our FY 2027 funding recommendations are in line with many organizations across the public health community. In particular, we encourage Congress to provide robust funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including programs and activities that support healthy longevity, and other essential public health programs at levels that reflect the magnitude of today's health challenges.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH): We are grateful for bipartisan support for continuous increases to the NIH budget and request at least \$51.3 billion in FY 2027 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-quality public health research and training programs.

Within the total amount for NIH, ASPPH requests:

- **\$104.7 million, an increase of \$9.5 million or 10% above the FY 2026 enacted level, for the Fogarty International Center (FIC) at NIH.** FIC continues to strengthen U.S. health security by advancing global research partnerships, scientific training, and early detection of emerging threats. With less than one-quarter of one percent of the NIH budget, FIC delivers outsized returns by building international capacity to identify, study, and contain infectious diseases before they reach our borders. Through decades-long partnerships and training programs, FIC supports research on HIV/AIDS, antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases and other global health threats that directly impact American safety, economic stability, and national security.
  - **Report Language: Fogarty International Center (FIC).**—*The Committee recognizes the need to continue increasing resources for FIC for its work in strengthening health research systems, training infectious disease researchers, and improving pandemic preparedness in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). These programs improve national and global health security and produce health interventions that can improve public health and reduce costs in low-resource settings everywhere, including in the U.S. The Center also supports training for researchers in anticipating and controlling a wide range of global health threats that could impact the U.S. The Committee encourages FIC to continue to expand training and research partnerships with schools and programs of public health and related academic institutions in support of this core mission and supports expanding FIC's role in pandemic preparedness and research capacity building.*

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): We request \$11.58 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 - including the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analysis - develop and sustain a strong public health workforce, and promote healthy communities through prevention.

Many programs at the CDC have lacked the necessary resources to address current and future public health challenges. Within the total amount for CDC, ASPPH requests:

- **\$35.0 million for the Prevention Research Centers (PRCs), an increase of \$6.1 million or 21% above the FY 2026 enacted 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.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): We request \$10.5 billion at HRSA 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, ASPPH requests:

- **\$15 million for Public Health Training Centers, a \$4.8 million increase above the FY 2026 enacted level.** Funding is critical to support 10 Regional Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs), located at top universities throughout the United States. 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. PHTCs ensure a stronger state and local prevention system in various ways, such as creating environments that support chronic disease prevention, strengthening food safety, and providing younger families and older adults access to prevention services. HRSA's PHTCs ensures a well-trained workforce equipped to address emerging health challenges, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more economically resilient nation.
  - **Report Language: Public Health Training Centers.**—*The Committee provides \$15,000,000 for Public Health Training Centers. The Public Health Training Center Program is the nation's only comprehensive training system to ensure workers in healthcare, behavioral health, public health and other fields have the skills needed to respond to increasingly complex public health challenges and protect the nation's health.*

**Healthy Longevity: In addition to the specific programs and funding levels outlined above, ASPPH also supports programs and activities that promote healthy longevity,** including robust funding to support research, education and training, practice, and policy as it relates to improving the aging process and health outcomes across the lifespan. However, our nation faces a crucial juncture that requires a transformative research plan to improve health outcomes across the lifespan. We also need improvements in education and training programs that encourage interdisciplinary learning – such as between public health, environmental health, and kinesiology – and incorporate longevity into core curricula. Additionally, practice and prevention systems should be redesigned for stronger support, and federal policy must shift away from models focused on burden toward proactive approaches that improve well-being and functional health. To better understand the universe of current U.S. policies, investments, and opportunities to enhance healthy longevity, ASPPH requests funding for a National Academies of Sciences study.

- **\$1.5 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a Healthy Longevity study by the National Academies of Science.** Funding will support efforts to better understand the universe of current U.S. policies, investments, and opportunities to enhance healthy longevity.
  - **Report Language: Healthy Longevity.**—*The Committee recognizes the growing demographic shift toward an aging population and the importance of a coordinated, prevention-focused approach to promote healthy longevity across the life course. To better align Federal investments with evidence-based strategies, the Committee provides \$1,500,000 for the Department of Health and Human Services to enter into an agreement*

*with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to identify and assess all existing Federal programs, projects, and activities that could be leveraged to address the domains of research, education and training, practice, and policy that influence healthy longevity. This assessment should include, but not be limited to, programs related to prevention and health promotion, social and environmental factors that affect public health, workforce development, data and research infrastructure, community-based interventions, and cross-sector partnerships. The study should identify gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for coordination across HHS agencies and with other Federal departments, and provide recommendations to improve alignment, effectiveness, and sustainability of Federal efforts to support healthy longevity. The Committee requests that the results of this assessment be made publicly available no later than 18 months after enactment of this Act.*

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

- **\$500.0 million, an increase of \$154.6 million above the FY 2026 level, for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).** AHRQ is the only federal agency that funds research specifically on health service delivery and improving health systems at universities and other research institutions. 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.
- **\$20.0 million for the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program within HRSA.** Reauthorized in the bipartisan PREVENT Pandemics Act, this program helps public health departments address workforce shortages by attracting and retaining qualified professionals. High student loan debt is a major barrier to careers in governmental public health, where entry-level salaries remain low. For master’s-level graduates, the median federal student debt is \$44,479, while median earnings one-year post-graduation are \$52,878. Loan repayment strengthens the public health workforce, ensuring trained professionals are prepared to tackle future public health challenges.
- **National Hepatitis C Elimination Program:** Under HHS mandatory spending, we support this program at \$9.4 billion in total 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 GAO, are \$6.5 billion. Some 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 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.

The United States is dealing with several public health crises, such as an increase in vaccine-preventable diseases, while academic public health – that both creates scientific solutions, and that trains the next generation of workforce - faces unprecedented challenges. Public health schools and programs are experiencing uncertain federal funding, and call for sustained, reliable funding for domestic public health programs and Global Health programs funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill and the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs appropriations bill. We are also deeply concerned about

new graduate student loan caps, as called for in the Department of Education's proposed RISE rule, and the significant impact it will have on the public health workforce pipeline.

On behalf of over 150 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 urge you to provide robust funding for these programs. We 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](mailto:brasouli@aspvh.org) or 202-534-2389 with questions.

Sincerely,



Tim Leshan, MPA  
Chief External Relations &  
Advocacy Officer  
ASPPH



Megan Ranney, MD, MPH  
Chair, ASPPH Advocacy  
Committee,  
Dean, Yale School of Public  
Health