



## 2025 ASPPH Virtual Capitol Hill Day

### Suggested Talking Points

#ASPPHHillDay

#### **Introduction**

- Thank you for taking the time to meet with me (and others if faculty or students join you).
- Introduce yourself and remind them where you are from.
- Ask the staff person to introduce themselves.

#### **1. Back to the Basics: Why is Public Health Important?**

- Discuss what public health is and its impact on people locally, nationally, and globally.
  - Expand on public health wins here.
- Discuss how [investing in public health](#) is good for both health AND the economy.
  - Highlight some ways public health provides a strong return on investment.
- Discuss the risks of ignoring evidence and science, as well as cuts to the public health workforce.
  - Emphasize the need to put politics aside, because public health and safety are at risk.

#### **2. Make the FY 2026 “Ask”**

- Please support ASPPH’s FY 2026 funding recommendations for federal investment in academic public health.
- These “asks” primarily include funding for top federal funders for ASPPH members: NIH, CDC, HRSA, as well as other agencies/programs at HHS, including AHRQ and the National HEP C Elimination Program. *(Refer to ASPPH’s FY 2026 Funding Priorities Chart for Specific \$ Amounts and See Specific Program Talking Points on Page 2).*

### 3. Justify the FY 2026 “Ask”

- This funding enables over 150 academic institutions across the country to provide public health education, training, and impactful research.
- Expand here on your specific school/program.
  - *Provide an example here about how funding for NIH, CDC, HRSA is important to your school/program, district, state, country, and internationally.*

#### **ASPPH Program-Specific Talking Points**

*(Based on ASPPH FY 2026 [Letter to Appropriators](#) and [Funding Chart](#))*

- I strongly support increased **funding in FY 2026 for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**, and other agencies and programs.
  - **Time sensitive and urgent ask: Ask your members of Congress to call HHS now to tell them they must release the FY’25 PRC funds before September 30th.**
- Cuts to key public health agencies and programs, as proposed in the House bill, will result in disastrous consequences, especially for academic public health. These agencies are essential to our nation’s preparedness and ability to protect public health.
- Specifically, I urge Congress to [provide funding and program support for the following public health agencies](#) **with at least what is in the Senate FY 2026 Labor-HHS-ED bill**. As a constituent, I request:
  - **\$11.581 billion for the CDC to improve disease surveillance, prevention programs, and emergency preparedness programs, including:**
    - \$35 million for Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) to support community-based, evidence-driven public health solutions and \$50 million for the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA).
  - **\$51.3 billion to support groundbreaking public health research at NIH and reimbursement policies vital to research institutions.**
    - \$104.7 million for the Fogarty International Center (FIC) to strengthen global health research and pandemic preparedness.

- Continuous support for essential Facilities & Administrative (F&A) research costs.
- Block proposals to forward fund NIH grants in the FY 2026 bill, as doing so would leave fewer resources for new, competitively awarded grants, ultimately slowing public health advancements.
- **\$10.5 billion for HRSA to support health professions programs, including:**
  - \$15 million for Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) to ensure a skilled public health workforce.
  - \$20 million for the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program to attract and retain professionals in governmental public health.
- Support the **Cure Hepatitis C Act of 2025 (S. 1941)** to save lives and reduce long-term healthcare costs by some \$7 billion and **\$500 million at AHRQ** to ensure health systems research supports real-world needs.
- These investments are not just budgetary decisions, they are commitments to our national security, our economy, and the health of all Americans. Failing to invest now guarantees we will pay more later in lives lost, healthcare costs, and economic setbacks.
- **I urge you to ensure that, at a minimum, the funding levels and program support for public health agencies and programs included in the Senate FY 2026 Labor-HHS-ED bill are reflected in the final legislation.**
- Public health saves lives, and strong federal support is essential.
- Thank you for championing academic public health at a critical time.
- Give the staff person time to give you their insights on the process and possible next steps for the funding bills.