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ASPPH Statement on President’s Actions to Combat Climate Change

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) commends President Biden’s latest announcement of executive actions on “Climate to Address Extreme Heat and Boost Offshore Wind.” While we continue to urge Congress to take action on the climate change crisis, we are pleased to see the President’s latest announcement to act on this global emergency. We are particularly supportive of the Administration’s efforts to address the public health impacts of climate change, including attempts to protect communities facing extreme heat and prevent occupation-related exposures.

Climate change is possibly the greatest global challenge of the 21st century, with the potential to irrevocably alter the planet unless there is sufficient and immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Strategies to adapt to the consequences of climate change are needed, particularly for minority and economically disadvantaged communities. The President’s latest commitment of $2.3 billion in funding for its Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for Fiscal Year 2022 will help make positive strides in addressing social determinants of health and achieving health equity.

Last year, ASPPH launched a Task Force on Climate Change and Health to develop recommendations for collective action to reduce the impacts of climate change on population health. The Task Force addressed four primary domains relevant to ASPPH members—1) education and training, 2) research, 3) practice, and 4) evidence-based policy and advocacy—and three cross-cutting themes in the context of each domain—1) health equity, environmental justice, and social justice, 2) partnerships for impact, and 3) interprofessional, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations. The Task Force is expected to release their report in October 2022. We at ASPPH continue to dedicate our attention and efforts to the challenge of climate change and appreciate the harmony that our work will have with the President’s commitment to this issue.

We still have a long way to go to address the climate crisis but are hopeful that the President’s latest executive actions will set the tone for future measures we must take as a nation.
The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH’s mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.

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