April 26, 2022

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

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), we want to thank your Committee for the steadfast support of public health programs that span the Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill. In addition to the ongoing demands of our public health system, the current pandemic has challenged every aspect of the public health community’s response to protect the American people and global populations. Your Committee has continued to provide the critical financial resources to advance those efforts.

As you begin the process of drafting the FY 2023 Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill, please consider our funding recommendations that support the mission of our 137 academic institutions to provide public health education, workforce practice training, and research. The agencies and programs below provide the essential resources to advance evidence-based approaches to public health threats and prepare future generations of public health practitioners. These investments will lead to tangible public health outcomes that will benefit the nation and the world.

Our FY 2023 funding recommendations for the leading HHS public health agencies are aligned with many other organizations in the public health community:

**National Institutes of Health (NIH):** $49.0 billion for ongoing work of Institutes and Centers, an increase of $4.1 billion or 9% above the FY 2022 enacted level. In addition, $1.0 billion for the second-year appropriation of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), which is the same as the FY 2022 appropriation that remains available into FY 2023.
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** $11.0 billion, an increase of $2.6 billion or 31% above the FY 2022 enacted level.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):** $9.8 billion, an increase of $1.2 billion or 14% above the FY 2022 enacted level.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ):** $500 million, an increase of $150 million or 43% above the FY 2022 enacted level.

Within the above agency recommendations, our specific priority program recommendations include:

- **NIH Fogarty International Center:** $110.0 million, an increase of $23 million or 26% above the FY 2022 enacted level. The investment in Fogarty is an investment in the health of all Americans by providing support for vital global research and training to both prevent newly emerging infectious agents from becoming domestic calamities and to help us reduce the rising rate of noncommunicable diseases and the health impact of chronic conditions around the world.

- **HRSA Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program:** $200 million for a new program that provides up to $150,000 in loan repayment in return for service in a state, local, tribal or territorial health department. In 2010 Congress authorized this critical program, but it has not been funded at the necessary level to make an impact. Therefore, student loan debt is a major obstacle to students seeking careers in governmental public health due to low-paying, entry-level jobs that are available in health departments. Loan repayment will allow our nation to strengthen the capacity of the public health workforce with the next generation of professionals who have the educational training in public health and related disciplines. This is a vital program to help public health graduates make significant contributions to advance the field of public health practice, particularly in preparation for the next public health crisis.

- **HRSA Public Health Training Centers:** at least $15.0 million, an increase of $5.3 million or 55% above the FY 2022 enacted level. 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.

- **CDC Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics:** $50 million to continue this new CDC center that was initially funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. The center supports the President’s National Security Memorandum-1 which called for the establishment of a national capability that would support the US government and our partners with advanced analytics, disease modeling and outbreak analytics. The center will bring together next-generation public health data, expert disease modelers, public health emergency responders, and high-quality communications to meet the needs of decision makers.
Report Language Requested:

Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics. -- The Committee includes 50,000,000 to continue the new Center for Forecasting and Outbreaks Analytics which was originally funded through the American Rescue Plan Act in FY 2022. The center addresses a critical need to improve the U.S. government’s ability to forecast and model emerging health threats and take timely action to mitigate their effects, such as social and economic disruption. The Committee urges the center to continue to work with schools of public health and other academic institutions to engage the nation’s expertise in disease modelling, public health data analysis, research, and training to build workforce capacity in this emerging field. As an interagency resource for early warnings related to emerging biological threats, the center will support the public health system in detecting, responding to, and eventually preventing future epidemics and outbreaks.

- **CDC Climate and Health**: $110 million, an increase of $100 million above the FY 2022 enacted level. CDC’s Climate and Health Program supports state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies as they prepare for the health impacts of a changing climate. Academic public health institutions are engaged in essential research and training to establish and support a workforce of public health professionals with competencies to understand and address the impacts of climate change on public health. ASPPH has developed a climate framework that will enable all of our member institutions to make an impact on public health climate issues in collaboration with local, state and the federal government.

Report Language Requested:

Climate and Health. -- The Committee has included an increase of $100,000,000 to expand the Climate and Health Program to support all states, local health departments, and provide additional assistance to tribes and territories, to identify possible health effects associated with climate change and implement health adaptation plans. The Committee has included funding to support academic public health partners to expand research, strengthen public health workforce education and training, and foster practice-based partnerships to design and implement mitigation and adaption strategies related to climate change.

- **CDC Prevention Research Centers**: $37.0 million, an increase of $10.0 million or 37% above the FY 2022 enacted level. The PRCs are a national network of academic research centers committed to conducting prevention research. They are leaders in translating research results into policy and public health practice. PRCs work closely with community members to establish health priorities and develop applicable research projects that address local public health needs. These partners collaborate with health departments, educational boards, and the private sector to form long-term relationships that make PRCs the leaders in community based participatory research. In the past, for every $1 the PRCs received from CDC, they were able to generate an average of $4.85 in research funds from other sources. As a result, PRCs are able to conduct hundreds of public health research projects every year to address issues such as cancer, smoking, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular and many other conditions.
- **CDC Academic Preparedness Centers**: $20 million, an increase $11.8 million or 144% above the FY 2022 enacted level. ASPPH endorses supporting not fewer than 10 centers at institutions of higher education, including schools of public health, and other nonprofit private entities, to establish a network of academic preparedness centers. The centers would coordinate preparedness and response activities with governmental health departments, healthcare providers, and coalitions to translate research findings into evidence-informed and evidence-based practices, support training needs, and provide technical assistance and expertise. This framework of a national network of centers will strengthen the connection between academic public health and public health departments and health care systems to proactively address future public health threats. In previous years, annual appropriations for this program exceeded $30 million and supported 21 academic preparedness centers at schools of public health.

- **CDC Injury Control Research Centers**: $15.0 million, an increase of $6.0 million or 67% above the FY 2022 enacted level. The CDC’s Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) are on the scientific front line conducting cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research on the causes, outcomes, and prevention of injuries and violence. The ICRC Program forms a national network of nine comprehensive academic research centers, including some within schools of public health, that focus on three core functions—research, outreach, and training. ICRC research focuses on issues of local and national importance, including opioids, firearm safety, sexual violence, suicide prevention, adverse childhood experiences, and traumatic brain injury.

- **CDC NIOSH Education & Research Centers**: $34.0 million, an increase of $3.0 million or 10% above the FY 2022 enacted level. These centers provide state-of-the-art interdisciplinary training for the next generation of occupational safety and health practitioners and researchers. To protect American workers, safety training must continually evolve to keep up with technological advances, globalization, new and emerging risks, and occupational health disparities associated with the changing demographics of the U.S. workforce.

- **CDC NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing Centers**: $30.5 million, an increase of $3.0 million above the 2022 enacted level. The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing sector has approximately 2.3 million workers, who experience the highest fatal occupational injury rate at 21.5 deaths per 100,000 full-time workers, almost twice the rate of the average workforce. These centers facilitate the most important research to develop the most effective intervention strategies, and translate those findings to achieve sustained safety improvements in workplace practice.
On behalf of our 137 schools and programs of public health, representing over 10,800 faculty and over 72,000 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@aspph.org or 202-534-2389 for questions.

Sincerely,

Tim Leshan
Timothy E. Leshan, MPA
Chief External Relations and Advocacy Officer
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Boris D. Lushniak MD, MPH
Chair, ASPPH Advocacy Committee and
Dean and Professor
University of Maryland School of Public Health