FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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ASPPH Statement on Senate Failure to Advance Voting Rights Legislation

January 21, 2022 – ASPPH is disappointed with the Senate’s failure to pass an election reform package that would expand civic engagement in the US. The fundamental right to vote is a key pillar of our democracy and we must ensure safe access to achieve optimal public health for all Americans. Evidence suggests that voter participation in elections is associated with better health in communities, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (which has created barriers to voter registration and voting).

Last fall, ASPPH joined VoteSAFE Public Health—a non-partisan coalition of election administrators and organizations that endorse the principle that every American has the right to vote safely. Our goal is to ensure the well-being of all voters as they exercise their constitutional right. We are committed to ensuring that the right to vote safely transcends politics and partisanship.

ASPPH’s commitment to supporting safe and healthy voting also includes enabling everyone to vote. ASPPH calls on policy makers, members, and the public to recognize that the health and well-being of our nation’s citizens depends on their free and fair participation in the electoral process. Without access to voting for all, we could see a roll back in the progress made to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustice, and socioeconomic marginalization across communities in the US.

We stand by proposals that strive to enhance safe and equitable voting participation, not impede it. ASPPH pledges to work with leaders of all political parties towards a collective vision of better health for our nation’s citizens—grounded in values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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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