

ASPPH Advocacy Initiatives in 2019 (Updated on May 2, 2019)

April 30, 2019: ASPPH formally [endorsed](#) the proposed Tobacco to 21 Act, legislation introduced in Congress on April 30 that prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 nationwide. Lead sponsors of the legislation ([summary](#), [S. 1258](#) text, and [H.R. 2411](#) text) are Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Todd Young (R-IN), Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mitt Romney (R-UT) and Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Chris Stewart (R-UT). for introducing this bipartisan legislation to help prevent young people from starting down a path that often leads to addiction, disease and premature death.

April 30, 2019: ASPPH and 35 other public health and medical organizations submitted formal [comments](#) to the Food and Drug Administration on April 30 on the Draft Guidance for Industry on FDA's proposed Modifications to its Compliance Policy for Certain Deemed Tobacco Products. The organizations said, "... on balance we believe the Draft Guidance to constitute an insufficient response to the current crisis of youth e-cigarette use, as well as to the continuing adverse public health consequences of youth cigar smoking..." The organizations said that under the Draft Guidance, flavored e-cigarettes could remain on the market for years to come without FDA public health review and that the restrictions on youth access to flavored e-cigarettes at retail stores and on-line proposed in the Draft Guidance are likely to be inadequate to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic. The letter was organized by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

April 29, 2019: ASPPH and 15 other organizations belonging to the Healthy Air Coalition [wrote](#) to Congressional leaders in support of H.R. 9, the Climate Action Now Act. The organizations said, "The bill would help ensure that the United States adheres to the science-based targets in the Paris Agreement and develops a plan to meet them, both essential steps to protecting public health from the impacts of climate change."

April 17, 2019: ASPPH and its partners in the Healthy Air Coalition submitted detailed [comments](#) on the EPA's proposed "National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units – Reconsideration of Supplemental Finding and Residual Risk and Technology Review" ([EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0794](#)). The comment letter said, "The Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) is one of the most important public health protections put in place by the US Environmental Protection Agency to reduce these emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) in the communities we serve. Our organizations fully support the current standards and strongly disagree with EPA's determination that it 'is not 'appropriate and necessary' to regulate HAP emissions from power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act."

April 2, 2019: ASPPH joined with more than 800 other groups in sending a [letter](#) to all Senators and Members of Congress urge them to take immediate steps to negotiate a new budget agreement that averts these cuts and provides funding for new investments that our economy needs. calling for a new budget agreement. The groups said, "Without Congressional action, our nation faces deep cuts in the coming fiscal year in funding for critical nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs — affecting investments that touch every sector of our economy, from health care to infrastructure, scientific

research, and education — as well as for defense. If Congress does not act, the misguided austerity policies of the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) will govern funding for 2020 and 2021.”

April 1, 2019: ASPPH and more than 500 other organizations sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leaders seeking a strong 302(b) funding allocation for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies spending bill in FY 2020. The letter also called upon lawmakers to raise the caps on non-defense discretionary spending in FY 2020 to allow an increase in the Labor-HHS-Education allocation. The letter was organized by the Coalition for Health Funding (of which ASPPH is a member), the Committee for Education Funding, the Coalition on Human Needs, and the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce

March 29, 2019: In a [letter](#) to appropriators, more than a dozen organizations, including ASPPH, voiced strong support for the HRSA Public Health Training Center Program. The administration has again proposed zeroing out the program, which currently funds one Training Center in each HHS region. Separately, seventy-three (73) members of the House, led by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Cong. Don Young (R-AK), signed a [letter](#) to Congressional appropriators in support of the program. A similar letter in the Senate garnered 25 signatures. The American College for Preventive Medicine was instrumental in producing both the organizational and Congressional letters of support for the program.

March 25, 2019: ASPPH and more than 80 other organizations/institutions/companies [wrote](#) to Congress seeking \$1 billion over 10 years -- \$100 million in FY 2020 – to allow CDC, state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments to move from “sluggish, manual, paper-based data collection to seamless, automated, interoperable IT systems and to recruit and retain skilled data scientists to use them.”

March 22, 2019: ASPPH and its partners in the Health Air Coalition [wrote](#) to the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees urging them to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Climate and Health Program to \$15 million. The groups said that the funding is critical for helping state and local health departments prepare and protect their communities from the health impacts of climate change that they are already experiencing.

March 22, 2019: ASPPH joined dozens of other organizations in [writing](#) Congressional leaders urging them to advance the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness & Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAI, H.R. 269), which overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives in January. A similar version passed the Senate Health Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee last year. The groups suggested that the PAHPA be added to the disaster relief package being considered by Congress.

March 20, 2019: The member organizations of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP) [wrote](#) to all Members of Congress congratulating them on their election to the 116th Congress and inviting them to utilize FASHP as a resource if they have any questions about health profession education and training. ASPPH is a member of FASHP and joined in signing the letter.

March 18, 2019: ASPPH and dozens of other organizations [wrote](#) to Congressional leaders urging them to include in the FY 2020 appropriations bill for CDC \$58 million to address the infectious disease

impacts of the opioid epidemic. This initiative was authorized by the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act. The groups also asked for report language to make clear that this funding should be used to support surveillance, prevention services, detection and linkages to care for the scope of infectious diseases associated with injection drug use, such as viral hepatitis, HIV, and infective endocarditis.

March 15, 2019: ASPPH and other members of the Friends of HRSA coalition [wrote](#) to key appropriators recommending that they provide \$8.56 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The groups said that while we are grateful for the increases provided for HRSA programs in FY 2019, HRSA's discretionary budget authority is far too low to effectively address the nation's current health care needs. Additional funding will allow HRSA to fill preventive and primary health care gaps and to build upon the achievements of HRSA's more than 90 programs and more than 3,000 grantees.

March 14, 2019: ASPPH and more than 50 other organizations [wrote](#) to key Agriculture appropriators in both the House and Senate urging them to approve the authorized level of user fees for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to oversee tobacco products. The groups said that the user fees will give FDA the resources it needs to protect kids and reduce the serious health and economic harms that tobacco products cause.

March 14, 2019: ASPPH and more than 50 other organizations [wrote](#) to key Labor-HHS appropriators in both the House and Senate urging them to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) by \$100 million, for a total of \$310 million. The organizations said this increase is needed to respond to soaring e-cigarette usage rates among youth and the devastating toll that tobacco continues to take on our nation's health.

March 8, 2019: ASPPH and five other members of the Healthy Air coalition sent a [letter](#) to EPA formally requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extend the comment deadline for at least 120 additional days on the Proposed Revised Supplemental Finding and Residual Risk and Technology Review for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. The organizations further requested that the EPA hold at least three additional public hearings on the proposal.

March 7, 2019: ASPPH and more than 300 other members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, endorsed the Group's FY 2020 [recommendation](#) of an appropriation of at least \$41.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a \$2.5 billion increase over the NIH's program level funding in FY 2019.

March 7, 2019: ASPPH and 151 other members of the Friends of AHRQ [wrote](#) to Congressional appropriators requesting \$460 million in budget authority for the Agency for Health Research and Quality, which is consistent with the FY 2010 enacted level adjusted for inflation.

March 7, 2019: ASPPH endorsed the [recommendation](#) of the Friends of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Program, which requested at least \$698 million for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant program in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

March 4, 2019: ASPPH and 225 other members of the CDC Coalition [wrote](#) to Congressional appropriators urge them to provide at least \$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's programs in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

March 4, 2019: ASPPH and other groups [wrote](#) to the Congressional sponsors of the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act (S. 523/H.R. 1243) thanking them for their ongoing leadership and endorsing the legislation.

February 26, 2019: ASPPH and dozens of other public health organizations sent a [letter](#) to key Congressional leaders asking them to provide a significant increase in funding in FY 2020 for the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.

February 21, 2019: ASPPH submitted [comments](#) on the proposed definition of "behavioral and social science research" issued by the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

February 21, 2019: In a [letter](#) to key House and Senate leaders, ASPPH and more than 150 other public health, research and medical organizations called on Congress to provide \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.

January 17, 2019: ASPPH submitted [comments](#) on the draft core, developmental and research objectives being considered for inclusion in Healthy People 2030, the HHS's nationwide health promotion and disease prevention goals. ASPPH did not oppose any of the proposed objectives but did suggest numerous revisions and additions.

January 17, 2019: ASPPH joined more than 275 other organizations from across a wide range of sectors in sending letters to [Congress](#) and the [President](#) urging an immediate end to the government shutdown. The letters highlighted just a few of the health impacts of the shutdown, including food safety, environmental health and tribal health.

January 15, 2019: ASPPH joined with more than 20 other organizations in sending a [letter](#) to the Office of the United States Trade Representative calling for the US to ensure that any trade agreement with the United Kingdom include provisions to protect their citizens from the death and disease caused by tobacco products. Specifically, the letter calls for any agreement to ensure that the US and UK not face the threat of investor litigation from the tobacco industry.

January 11, 2019: ASPPH and more than 40 other organizations [wrote](#) to the Senate leadership urging them to break the impasse on the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, which has been blocked by an unrelated dispute between GOP Senators Richard Burr (NC) and Johnny Isakson (GA).

January 8, 2019: Dr. Michael Eriksen, Tony Mazzaschi and Mark Mioduski hosted an ASPPH Presents [Webinar](#), "The New Congress and the Missions of Academic Public Health."

January 7, 2019: Members of the ASPPH leadership team met in Atlanta with CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield and his senior staff on December 17, 2018. On January 7, 2019, ASPPH [wrote](#) to Dr. Redfield thanking him for the meeting and reiterated that ASPPH and our members are essential allies of the CDC and that we can add additional value to the CDC while supporting his priorities. We provided specific examples of ways that our members' work on workforce development, public health research, communications and advocacy align with CDC's objectives and can continue to help the CDC's senior leadership address the future challenges facing the nation's public health system.