

April 8, 2026

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

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Capito and Ranking Members DeLauro and Baldwin:

The undersigned 50 state and national public health, environmental health and other supporting organizations write to you to express our support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health in the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. NCEH funds important programs related to asthma prevention, childhood lead poisoning prevention, environmental health tracking, water safety, food safety, air quality, emergency response to natural disasters and climate-related events and understanding the health impacts of radiation exposure.

As Congress moves forward with the appropriations process for FY 2027, we urge you to reject the proposed NCEH program eliminations and instead provide \$420.85 million to NCEH to ensure all its programs are adequately funded. This funding will help ensure the center can work to strengthen and expand its programs to more states and communities, including:

- Improving surveillance of environmental health threats by expanding the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to a true nationwide network. The tracking program works with a network of partners to collect, integrate, and analyze disease and environmental data to help public health and other practitioners identify and target health risks and implement interventions to protect communities from these health threats.
- Preserving and expanding childhood lead poisoning prevention activities through CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which will allow for surveillance to determine the extent of childhood lead poisoning, educate the public and health care providers about lead poisoning and ensure that lead-exposed children receive needed follow-up services.
- Preserving the National Biomonitoring Network, expanding the number of states that can undertake state population-based surveillance of chemicals and toxics. Communities are

concerned about exposure to chemicals, yet underfunding limits the availability of data about these exposures at the state and local level.

- Expand and strengthen the National Asthma Control Program that tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma prevention and builds capacity in state programs. It is estimated that more than 27 million Americans currently have asthma, including more than 4.8 million children. Asthma can be a fatal disease, but due to the success of this program, asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased, despite an increase in asthma prevalence.
- Expanding the Climate and Health Program that helps states, localities and tribes diagnose and prepare for the serious adverse health impacts their residents face from extreme heat, more severe weather, floods, droughts, wildfires, worsening allergy seasons and the spread of vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and dengue fever. This is the only program across the federal government that provides resources for a public health response when these disasters hit.
- Supporting CDC and health departments to conduct cancer studies across the nation using CDC's guidelines. With increased funding, NCEH can support and expand laboratory studies into the human health impacts of exposure to toxic substances and expand our understanding of which exposures may cause or contribute to the development of different cancers in the population.

Investments in environmental health prevention activities reduce illness, disease, injury and death. Relying solely on our health care system to address the health impacts of dangerous problems, including dirty air and water, toxic substances, lead poisoning, and environmental disasters, is a costly and ineffective solution. We thank you for considering this recommendation of \$420.85 million for NCEH and we look forward to working with you as you move forward with the FY 2027 appropriations process and again urge you to reject efforts to eliminate or weaken any of the important programs within NCEH.

Please contact Don Hoppert at donald.hoppert@apha.org or 202-777-2514 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Physicians
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Endocrine Society
Entomological Society of America
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Hawaii Public Health Association
Health Care Without Harm
Healthy Schools Network
Henry and Stark County Health Department
Illinois Public Health Association
International WELL Building Institute
Louisiana Public Health Association
Maine Public Health Association
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future (MS4SF)
Michigan Public Health Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
Montana Public Health Association
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Environmental Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Nevada Public Health Association
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Sleep Research Society
Society for Public Health Education
Tennessee Public Health Association
The Alpha-1 Foundation
Trust for America's Health
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Young, Gifted & Green

cc: Members of the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees