December 10, 2025

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

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 54 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 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Our organizations urge you to follow the Senate's lead and work in a bipartisan manner to adequately fund all NCEH programs as you work to develop a final FY 2026 spending bill. NCEH programs are essential to assisting states and local health departments and other organizations in efforts 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 finalizing the appropriations process for FY 2026, we urge you to provide adequate funding for all NCEH programs. 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 maintaining the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to a true nationwide network.
- Preserving 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 received needed follow-up services.
- Preserving the National Biomonitoring Network, to ensure that states can undertake
 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 levels.

- Maintaining 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.
- Maintaining 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, worse allergy seasons and
 the spread vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and dengue fever. Communities
 need support when environmental disasters strike, and this is the only program across the
 federal government that provides resources for a public health response.
- Supporting CDC and health departments to conduct cancer studies across the nation using CDC's guidelines. 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 look forward to working with you as you finalize the FY 2026 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 <u>donald.hoppert@apha.org</u> or 202-777-2514 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Chest Physicians

American College of Medical Toxicology

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Lung Association

American Public Health Association

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Endocrine Society

Entomological Society of America

For Our Health

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Health E Strategies

Illinois Public Health Association

Institute for Public Health Innovation

International WELL Building Institute

Lehman College

Maine Public Health Association

Minnesota Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Environmental Health Association

National League for Nursing

National Network of Public Health Institutes

Nevada Public Health Association

New Jersey Mosquito Control Association

Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases

Pennsylvania Public Health Association

PGCHD

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania

Public Health Institute

Rhode Island Public Health Institute

Roots of Change

Society for Public Health Education

South Dakota Public Health Association

Southern California Public Health Association

Tennessee Public Health Association

Trust for America's Health

University of Notre Dame

University of South Carolina

Utah Public Health Association

Vermont Public Health Association

Washington State Dept of Health

Wisconsin Public Health Association

YWCA Champaign County

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