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@ASTHO

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, HHS;
Education, and Related Agencies
United States House Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House Representatives

March 28, 2018

Dear Senators Blunt and Murray, Representatives Cole and DeLauro:

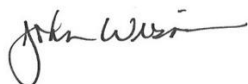
The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is writing to thank you and your colleagues for sending a clear message to the American public that investing in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state, territorial, and local public health programs is a priority. ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. territories and freely associated states, and the District of Columbia, as well as the more than 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ.

ASTHO is thrilled that your committees provided the most significant support to CDC in over a decade with funding directed to the opioid epidemic, increased investments in preparedness programs, sustaining the Preventive Health and Health Services block grant, and across the board increases.

ASTHO is also grateful for the amazing contributions of your staff in getting this mammoth bill across the finish line. It is not lost on us how imperative the knowledge and energy that your team brings to their work of drafting the appropriations bills that fund programs improve the lives of Americans.

With all the threats our nation faces today it is so important that we adequately value and fund CDC, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 is an important first step to accomplish that goal.

We look forward to working with you and your staff during the FY19 appropriations process to harness this momentum and continue to back public health programs to ensure our nation's health is protected from communicable and non-communicable disease.



John M. Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
ASTHO President, Secretary of Health
Washington State Department of Health



Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
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