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@ASTHO

January 17, 2018

Public Health Associate Program  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
MS-E85  
4770 Buford Hwy, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30341

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Center for Population Health Strategies application to host a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Associate Program associate (PHAP). ASTHO, as the national nonprofit organization representing state, territorial, and freely associated state public health agencies (S/THAs) has a mission to support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public's health and well-being. The Center for Population Health Strategies specifically works closely with the CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support to support high performing and accountable health agencies by strengthening the public health infrastructure, building S/THA capacity, and communicating the value of public health to improve public health agency performance for improved population health outcomes.

As the association for the health officials of all states, territories, and freely associated states, ASTHO provides the opportunity to view public health work in not one, but a variety of health departments across the country. Because of the broad scope of public health generally and state public health specifically, the scope of ASTHO's work is broad as well, covering all 10 of the Essential Public Health Services. As such, ASTHO's staff have expertise in a wide range of public health areas, ranging from community health and prevention, preparedness and environmental health, performance improvement, research and evaluation, workforce development, informatics, and population health, with ASTHO staff possessing more than 300 years of experience in public health. Further, ASTHO employs a number of early-career public health professionals, and as such is equipped to provide a PHAP associate a meaningful and robust experience in public health programs and service delivery.

I have no doubt that during the PHAP's time at ASTHO s/he will gain valuable public health skills in all PHAP competencies through hands-on experience in collecting, analyzing and disseminating information, as well as building familiarity with how public health agencies are building clinical to community connections, addressing health equity and the social determinants of health, and capitalizing on health data and public health informatics. The work of the PHAP associate will bring value to ASTHO and their members by examining ASTHO's programmatic areas and proposing opportunities for evidence-based practices to better support S/THAs' pursuit of population health improvement and cross-sector/cross-agency collaboration. Finally, the PHAP associate will bring value to the field of public health through the development of a innovative research on the inclusion of health equity principles in

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public health and healthcare operations, analysis of the impact of federal and state policies on health equity and population health outcomes, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning among S/THAs and ASTHO teams, and state capacity building around data collection and sharing to track population health outcomes.

I think you will agree that ASTHO's Center for Population Health Strategies is perfectly positioned to host and support the needs of a PHAP associate, who will be treated as a valued member of the Center for Population Health Strategies and ASTHO family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Fraser". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael R. Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP  
Executive Director  
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials