

National Headquarters
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www.astho.org
@ASTHO

July 6, 2018

Gillian K SteelFisher, PhD, MSc
Senior Research Scientist
Deputy Director, Harvard Opinion Research Program
Department of Health Policy and Management
Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health
677 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02113

Dear Dr. SteelFisher,

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to support the Harvard Opinion Research Program of the Harvard School of Public Health's application in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Notice of Funding Opportunity 2018-N-67817 entitled: "*Evidence for Translating Views to Action: Understanding Information Needs and Communication Channels Among Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Populations to Inform Emergency Communication Guidelines for Infectious Disease Outbreaks.*" ASTHO is committed to supporting public health efforts to effectively engage and enhance communications with persons with limited English proficiency. We look forward to supporting this project effort by participating as partner providing expert advice and facilitation of state public health department engagement.

ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing public health agencies in the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia, and over 100,000 public health professionals these agencies employ. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, formulate and influence sound public health policy and ensure excellence in state-based public health practice. Our members and their staff manage, coordinate, and facilitate public health emergency preparedness and response for natural disasters, and emerging threats of any kind including infectious disease threats. Additionally, our members partner with complementary emergency organizations at the state, local and territorial level to respond to public health emergencies.

The proposed project aims to provide essential outreach to LEP populations regarding public health emergencies and outbreaks. Through collaborative efforts, we envision ASTHO engaging our membership to develop an Expert Advisory Group to guide the development and execution of qualitative in-depth interviews for both public health staff and persons with LEP. We support HORP's comprehensive approach to strengthen and support effective communication strategies between public health departments and persons with LEP, as it aligns with our Health Equity Program and value of diversity and inclusion.

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ASTHO has worked with HORP previously on other initiatives. Our organizations have collaborated on the development of public opinion polling and recommendations for state public information officers to craft more efficient messages for women at risk of transmitting Zika Virus Disease as well as emergency preparedness and response research. We look forward to continued partnership through the support of the proposed LEP project.

On behalf of ASTHO, thank you for including us in this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Fraser". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
Chief Executive Officer