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January 29, 2018

William Pound, Ph.D., Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures
7700 East First Place
Denver, Colorado 80230

Dear Bill,

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to provide this letter of support and commitment to the National Conference of State Legislatures' proposal for the *Supporting State Maternal and Child Health Policy Innovation Program*, for which ASTHO is also applying. ASTHO commits to collaborating and coordinating with NCSL on activities of mutual benefit, as feasible, throughout the grant period.

As you know, ASTHO is the national non-profit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories and freely associated states, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing thoughtful public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

ASTHO has a long and successful history of collaborating with NCSL on many health issues including those related to maternal and child health. We believe that the collaborative work of our two organizations has strengthened state governments through partnerships between legislators and state health officials. As past partners in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's AIM Initiative and Health Priorities Project, our organizations have worked on many joint projects, including planning and conducting several multi-state team meetings and providing education for each other's members. These projects were strengthened by the collaboration between our two organizations.

We wish you success in your application and ASTHO looks forward to our continued work together in whatever ways seem appropriate, including sharing information resources, supporting multi-state team meetings, and providing expertise for the proposed NCSL "MCH Fellows" Program.

Sincerely,



Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE, FCPP
ASTHO Executive Director