

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2023

### **ASPPH Statement on FY 2024 Labor-HHS-ED Spending Bills**

July 31, 2023 – The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) applauds the Senate Appropriations Committee’s passage of the fiscal year (FY) 2024 **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-ED)** bill. The spending bill makes key investments in federal agencies and programs critical to academic public health. We particularly commend the Committee’s support for initiatives that are important to advancing the mission of ASPPH and its members. At the same time, we are deeply concerned by the devastating cuts to public health in the House version of the bill.

We are pleased to see sustained funding for key public health agencies including:

- \$9.198 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including \$28.9 million for the Prevention Research Centers (PRCs), which is the same as the FY 2023 enacted level, \$9.2 million for the Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness, and \$45 million for the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics
- \$47.8 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), \$943 million above the FY 2023 enacted level, and \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)
- \$8.9 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including \$10.2 million for the Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs), which is the same as the FY 2023 enacted level
- \$370 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), a \$3 million decrease to the FY 2023 enacted level

We are appreciative of the increase to the NIH budget. The agency serves as the primary federal funder of important research at our nation’s schools and programs of public health. This includes population-based research, disease interventions, and public health evaluation. Funding for the NIH base budget is essential to ensure ongoing work at the Institutes and Centers. As a leading advocate for the Fogarty International Center (FIC), we are pleased to see approximately \$95.2 million for the center which is slightly above the FY 2023 level. ASPPH is also encouraged by the support proposed for ARPA-H. We urge collaborations between ARPA-H and academic public health partners to better catalyze research linked to public health needs.

ASPPH is very pleased with the Senate bill’s investment of \$350 million for Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity to bolster the nation’s public health infrastructure and workforce. This funding is necessary to ensure proper readiness and response to the next public health crisis. However, we are disappointed that the Senate bill did not include funding for the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program. This program was reauthorized by Congress last year and is vital to help public health graduates make significant contributions to advance the field of public health practice, particularly in preparation for the

next public health crisis.

We are grateful to the Senate for sustaining funding for critical public health agencies in the FY 2024 Labor-HHS-ED spending bill but are disappointed with the House bill which drastically reduces funding for key programs within HHS. We urge Congress to fund public health programs at the higher Senate level in order to enable proper preparedness for public health emergencies. As this critical spending bill moves to conference negotiations between the House and Senate, we hope additional resources can be identified to expand several programs above the Senate level to support expanded academic public health partnerships in support of key federal activities, including forecasting and outbreak analytics, preparedness centers, prevention research centers, and workforce development. Fully engaging the capacity, knowledge and expertise of schools and programs of public health will make our nation healthier and safer.

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*The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.*

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