April 15, 2024

The Honorable Mike Simpson Chair House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley Chair Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Chellie Pingree Ranking Member House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Simpson and Merkley and Ranking Members Pingree and Murkowski:

The undersigned 65 state and national public health, medical and environmental health organizations urge you to provide at least \$100 million for the

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in the FY 2025 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We are disappointed with the more than \$3 million cut to -Environment appropriations bill and we urge the

committee to restore this cut and further

ATSDR establishes and maintains effective relationships with people in communities that are impacted by environmental hazards throughout the nation. The agency assists these communities by investigating and addressing the health concerns resulting from environmental hazards. ATSD environmental health expertise, regional locations, and ability to respond 24/7 enables the agency to respond to and address environmental health threats from chemical spills and other emergencies at a

ATSDR has completed the initial Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE) investigation in the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. Over 700 residents and 330 first responders participated in the ACE survey. The results of the ACE investigation are currently being used to inform the next steps of the response, and the agency

exposure assessments found that the average blood levels for PFAS were higher than national levels in most of the studied communities. The assessments also provided information about factors that affect exposure that can be used to prevent and reduce future exposures. The exposure assessments have included over 2,300 participants, assessed over 1,300 households and reached over 150,000 people through social media.

As a result of funding increases since FY 2020, ATSDR has increased the number of states funded through the ATSDR Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement in FY 2023 to 30 with states receiving a total of \$12.6 million in funding. The APPLETREE program expands the environmental health capacity in state health departments, allowing them to do critical work to identify if and how people are exposed to hazardous substances and make recommendations to prevent and address those exposures. For example, APPLETREE funding enabled the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and local governments to address lead exposure concerns from contaminated drinking water. The partnerships led to the sampling of hundreds of private wells and a free community blood-lead testing event that helped people understand their risks and steps they can take to protect themselves and their families. ATSDR is also expanding state environmental health capacity by developing geospatial tools and other resources that states can use to address hazardous exposures.

ATSDR also provides vital support to

The agency provides

environmental health education to public health professionals, clinicians, community members and others. ATSDR also supports ten Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units that advise parents and pediatric health providers on protecting and caring for children potentially exposed to harmful chemicals. In addition to the thousands of trainings conducted, PEHSUs have provided over 1,000 consultations benefitting nearly 2,500 health professionals, parents, and community members. PEHSUs provide a vital role because most healthcare professionals do not receive proper training to recognize, manage, treat, and prevent environmentally related conditions in children.

In order for ATSDR to continue to build upon its impactful work protecting the public from environmental hazards, we urge you to support a request of at least \$100 million for the agency in FY 2025. This emergencies, community requests for assistance, fund state and local health departments

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments American Academy of Pediatrics American Academy of Pediatrics Iowa Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, CA American Academy of Pediatrics, California American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists American Lung Association American Public Health Association Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs Association of Public Health Laboratories Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Children's Environmental Health Network Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists District of Columbia Public Health Association Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc. Florida Public Health Association Green & Healthy Homes Initiative Hawaii Public Health Association Health Resources in Action Illinois Public Health Association Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Indiana Public Health Association Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

cc: Members of the House and Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees