



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACCHO Expresses Concern Over House Committee Cuts to Immunization Funding and Other Critical Public Health Services

Washington, DC, July 19, 2017—The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](http://www.naccho.org) (NACCHO) representing the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments, today expressed concern that the House Appropriations Committee is proposing to cut discretionary funding for immunization and other programs that are key to preventing disease outbreaks. It is the role of local health departments to monitor, prevent, and control disease to reduce health risks through vaccine awareness and immunization programs. The funding levels for the bill are drastically low because of artificial budget caps. The FY2018 House Labor-HHS-Education bill cuts \$50 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) immunization program. The program supports the purchase of vaccines, as well as immunization operations, at the local, state, and national levels. Other important public health programs slated for cuts are:

- \$74 million cut to Chronic Disease and Health Promotion
- Elimination of Title X Family Planning Grants; more than half of all Title X grantees are local health departments
- Elimination of Climate and Health Program
- Elimination of REACH (Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) program

Laura Hanen, MPP, NACCHO's Interim Executive Director and Chief of Government Affairs, said, "While there are substantial cuts in this bill, we appreciate that the bill rejects the deep cuts requested by the president. We would also like to commend House Appropriators for providing additional funding for Public Health Preparedness and keeping the Preventive Health Block Grant intact, an important source of flexible funding for state and local health departments. We look forward to working with Congress as this bill moves forward. The programs cut here are vital to local health departments, as they work to keep their communities healthy and safe."

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.