Dear Senator [**Insert Last Name**],

My name is [**Insert Your First/Last Name**], and I am with the [**Insert Health Department Name**]. I wanted to reach out to let you know that local health departments are planning to request an increase in the 2020 session to what is commonly referred to as State Formula funding which departments like mine receive. It is an issue we’ve been working on through our professional association, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD). As part of that process we are also interested in adjusting K.S.A. 65-242 (which defines the computation formula to allocate the State Formula funds). Since you serve on the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee I wanted to reach out to start a dialogue about that statutory change.

The State Formula funding supports a variety of local public health functions and is very useful to me because I can use the funds for any public health priority we identify locally. State Formula funding comes out of the State General Fund and is listed as a part of the “Aid to Local Health Departments” expenditure in the budget. The State Formula portion of that funding is $2,220,250 (you may see the distribution information from the latest round of funding here: <https://khap2.kdhe.state.ks.us/KGMS/KGMSContent/documents/SF/State%20Formula%20Population-Award%20SFY%202020.pdf>). The challenge is, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, this $2.22 million value has been the same since 1992. KALHD is planning to request an inflation increase as part of the budget process.

The reason why we are interested in opening K.S.A. 65-242 alongside this budget request is because it currently defines the base (minimum) allocation amount at $7,000. A majority of local health departments [**Insert ,including mine, If Your Department is One of Them; The Link Above Will Tell You!**] only receive this minimum amount. Our concept is straight forward; we’d like the minimum to stay at $7,000 if the State Formula Funding is funded at less than $3 million, but if the funding allocation ever reaches or exceeds $3 million then we would like the minimum amount to be $15,000. This change would exceed the difference in inflation since 1992 while also protecting those local health departments who receive more than minimum from experiencing a reduction in funding (thanks to the $3 million “trigger”).

I would love to speak with you further about what we do at the health department and how this inflation adjustment would be beneficial to us. If you would like a tour of my department I’d be happy to arrange one. Feel free to contact me by phone at [**Insert Your Phone Number**] or email: **[Insert Your Email Address**]

Thank you so much for reading and I look forward to hearing from you in the future!

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