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). Since you serve on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and this will be a request in the budget, I wanted to reach out to start a dialogue about this.

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.

Due to inflation the reach of a dollar today is less than a dollar back in 1992. We are intending to ask for an inflation adjustment (based off the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ inflation calculator) of approximately $1.9 million, which would make the new State Formula value $4.1 million (you can see that calculation here: <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=2220250&year1=199201&year2=201910>). While the population of Kansas has also grown since 1992 (by approximately 15%), we feel focusing just on the impact we’ve seen due to inflation as a reasonable starting place that would result in real-world gains in what health departments can achieve for the citizens of Kansas.

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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