Dear **[Insert County Government Name]** Commissioners,

I wanted to let you know, as your local health department **[Insert Title Here]**, that my professional association, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), is working on increasing our state-supported funding during this legislative session.

KALHD’s ask consists of two parts:

1. Increasing the State Formula itself: The State Formula is an aid-to-local government funding stream that supports health departments (the funds are not restricted to a specific issue but may be used on public health matters broadly). This is a part of the budget process and the plan is to ask the Kansas Legislature to enhance the funding total when they review the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE’s) budget. This funding has remained flat since 1992 at a value of $2,220,250. KALHD plans to request that be increased by approximately $1.9 million to $4.1 million.
2. Increase the guaranteed minimum in the State Formula: This will require a bill as the minimum is set in statute (K.S.A. 65-242). The current minimum is $7,000. KALHD plans to ask for this to stay at $7,000 should the State Formula remain under $3 million, but that the minimum increase to $15,000 if at least $3 million is budgeted.

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. Adjusting both the grand total and the minimum for inflation reasons is critical. Currently, 68 of the 105 counties are only assigned the minimum $7,000, hence why KALHD wants to address that issue in a way that also does not reduce funding for those counties that receive more. This trigger to the minimum should accomplish that while we also pursue more funding to the system itself.

There will be no requested changes to any maintenance of effort language. The plan here is to just increase the State support coming to the local health department without asking the local government to increase its funding match.

When the relevant hearings come up during the legislative session it would be very helpful if our government would be willing to lend support, via testimony, that this change would assist us in protecting the health of our residents. I would be happy to take the lead in providing such testimony if I am granted permission to speak on the county’s behalf on this matter.

Sincerely,

**[Insert Your Name Here]**

**[Insert Your Title Here]**