Public Comments of **[Insert Your Department Name]** to the

House Social Services Budget Committee

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Budget • **[Insert Current Date Here]**

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE’s) budget. I am writing to request the committee consider adding $1.9 million in FY 2021 to Aid to Local Health Departments under KDHE’s Division of Public Health. The Governor’s budget allocates $2.2 million[[1]](#footnote-1) for Aid to Local Health Departments in FY 2021. This enhancement would raise the total allocation to $4.1 million.

According to KDHE, this aid (commonly referred to as State Formula funding by KDHE and the local health departments) has not been increased since 1992. This requested increase is an inflation adjustment as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistic’s CPI Inflation Calculator[[2]](#footnote-2).

For my department, an increase in the State Formula would primarily be used to work towards public health modernization. While public health thinking has progressed a great deal in recent years, the actual *practice* of public health in Kansas tends to be stuck in the 20th Century. Research has identified where we must switch focus (while still maintaining the statutory required services and other priorities our local communities have identified) but such a transition requires serious resources. The State’s share towards this has remained stagnant for a long time (almost 30 years) and it shows. According to the 2019 America’s Health Rankings[[3]](#footnote-3) Kansas is the state that experienced the greatest ranking decrease over the 30 years of the report. While we are not the least healthy state our trendline is terrible and our citizens deserve far better. We can make improvements; a $1.9 million Aid to Local enhancement would go a long way to reverse the decline.

Thank you for reading and considering this enhancement request to KDHE’s Division of Health budget.

Respectfully,

**[Signature Here]**

**[Name Here, Title]**

**[Department Name Here]**

1. See page 106 of The Governor’s Budget Report, Volume 1, Fiscal Year 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The BLS CPI Inflation Calculator results, from comparing $2.2 million in January 1992 to its value in December 2019 dollars, is here: <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl?cost1=2200000&year1=199201&year2=201912> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A Public Health Newswire summary of the 2019 America’s Health Rankings can be found at: <http://www.publichealthnewswire.org/articles/2019/12/06/america-health-rankings-2019> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)