Public Comments of **[Insert Your County 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. We, the commissioners of **[Insert County Name]** County are writing to request a funding enhancement, specifically for 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 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).

Our county’s health department is the front line of defense against a host of diseases and health threats to our community. Vigilance is ever critical, as the recent coronavirus demonstrates. But public health resources have not been keeping up with inflation, not to mention today’s public health threats. 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. The damage being felt is real, in our county and in counties across Kansas. Steps need to be taken to reverse this slide, and the State needs to do its share.

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

Respectfully,

**[Signature(s) Here]**

**[Name(s) Here, Title(s)]**

**[County Name Here]** County Commissioners

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)