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

Health Subcommittee, Ways and Means

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

Members of the Subcommittee,

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 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 (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 enhance the core services we provide to the community. There are several statutory requirements the State places on the local level (e.g., disease investigation and control, school inspections, immunizations, enforcement of nuisance laws, and environmental health functions). As the years have gone by it has become harder and harder to execute on these requirements given state support has not increased alongside inflation. This is showing in the national data. 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, to my department and to other local health departments across Kansas. We can reverse this slide, but we need resources to do it.

Thank you for reading and considering this enhancement request to KDHE’s Division of Public 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)