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 have been seeking an additional $1.9 million from the SGF to support local health departments via the statutory formula distribution in K.S.A. 65-242 for FY 2021. We’ve pursued this through our professional association, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD). Since you serve on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I believe you shall be hearing very soon (I think on Wednesday, March 11th) the recommendations of the Senate Health Subcommittee.

My understanding is the Senate Health Subcommittee has allocated some funds, but not the full $1.9 million. There appeared to be confusion regarding the enhancement, how much local health departments currently receive (68 out of 105 counties are assigned a minimum value, set in 65-242, of $7,000 but some do receive quite a bit more), and a desire to dedicate funds for coronavirus. While I am completely supportive of resources to help combat COVID-19, I do not think our enhancement ask to the statutory formula should be reduced to accommodate it.

The $1.9 million was selected to simply adjust the $2.2 million funding from 1992 (when it was last raised) into 2020 dollars via the Consumer Price Index (which indicates health funding should be at $4.1 million to have the same buying power it had in 1992). We did not seek funding for the population change (Kansas’s population is 15% higher now than it was in 1992) and feel $1.9 million is both meaningful to us but also frugal and a good investment for the State. I such, I ask that you support $1.9 million as an enhancement recommendation when you review KDHE’s Health budget.

I would love to speak with you further if you would like. Feel free to contact me by phone at [**Insert Your Phone Number**] or email: **[Insert Your Email Address**]

Thank you so much for reading!

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