



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Senate Passes Legislation Strengthening Public Health Programs**

**Washington, DC, September 18, 2018** — The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), representing nearly 3,000 local health departments, applauds the Senate for passing the FY2019 Labor, Health & Human Services (LHHS), and Education Appropriations bill.

The bill provides an additional \$2 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an increase of \$584 million to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and a \$126 million increase to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The bill funds various programs that support local public health departments and their work to protect and improve health in their communities. Included in the bill is continued support for prevention and response to the opioid epidemic, and new funding to address the infectious disease challenges related to the epidemic. It also contains increased funding for emergency preparedness grants and CDC, as well as a new rapid-response fund for infectious disease emergencies. “Over the past few days, we have seen Hurricane Florence cause loss of life in the Carolinas as a result of the severe flooding, as well as the inability of some people to evacuate. The storms and flooding have not yet passed, yet it is

anticipated that property damage will cost at least \$17 billion,” said NACCHO Chief Executive Officer, Lori Tremmel Freeman. “Learning to prepare for and respond to natural disasters will require collaborative efforts, and our local public health departments stand ready to provide a host of services. Critically, more than half of local health departments rely solely on federal funding to prepare for public health emergencies. This is why continued federal support is vital.”

NACCHO urges the House to pass the bill without delay and the President to sign the bill which provides funding for the fiscal year starting October 1.

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**About NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).