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 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 on the social determinants of health. The link between social determinants and health outcomes is well established, and we know that the greatest improvements to the quality and quantity of life a person experiences can only be achieved by working in these areas. Local health departments are chief health strategists for their communities (the delivery of interventions is system wide, but how that system communicates with itself is a major struggle we must take on as local public health). Due to stagnant funding our ability to tackle social determinants has been limited mostly to sporadic grant opportunities and collaborative, low-cost projects. These efforts help but not enough to keep pace with the improvements made in other states. According to the 2019 America’s Health Rankings[[3]](#footnote-3) Kansas is the state that experienced the greatest ranking decrease over the report’s 30 years. We need resources to reverse this.

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)