

November 23, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: NEHA support for funding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to \$311.85 million.**

Dear Chairpersons DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt;

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) represents approximately 7,000 governmental, private, academic, and uniformed services sector environmental health professionals in the U.S., its territories, and internationally. NEHA is the profession's strongest advocate for excellence in the practice of environmental health as it delivers on its mission to build, sustain, and empower an effective environmental health workforce.

NEHA expresses our support for increased funding for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to \$311.85 million.**

As Congress enters the final stages of the FY 2023 appropriations process, we urge you to provide at least \$311.85 million to NCEH to ensure adequate funding for all of its programs. Although we believe that our original request of \$401 million for NCEH in FY 2023 remains necessary to fully support all of the activities NCEH is required to pursue, the amount of \$311.85 million that was appropriated by the committee in June 2022 is the bare minimum that NCEH should receive to accomplish its responsibilities.

We also believe that it is critical for Congress to quickly finalize the FY 2023 appropriations process to avoid lengthy continuing resolutions that bring uncertainty and create difficulties for the agency and its grantees to protect the public’s health.

Federal Agencies, Environmental Health	FY 2022 Enacted	FY 2023 House Appropriations
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>	<b>\$8,401,000,000</b>	<b>\$10,499,354,000</b>
<b>National Center for Environmental Health</b>	<b>\$228,350,000</b>	<b>\$311,850,000</b>
Climate Change	\$10,000,000	\$75,000,000
“All Other” Environmental Health Activities	\$17,000,000	\$23,000,000
Safe Water	\$8,600,000	\$8,600,000
Asthma	\$30,500,000	\$33,500,000
Lead Poisoning Prevention	\$41,000,000	\$66,000,000
Environmental Health Tracking Network	\$34,000,000	\$34,000,000
Environmental Health Laboratory	\$68,750,000	\$71,750,000

This funding will help ensure that NCEH can work to strengthen and expand its programs including:

- Supporting CDC and state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) health departments to conduct cancer studies across the nation using CDC guidelines. Increased funding at NCEH will also support and expand laboratory studies into the human health impacts of exposure to hazardous substances such as PFAS and expand our understanding of exposures that may cause or contribute to the development of different cancers in the population. **FY 2023 CDC NCEH “All Other” Environmental Health Activities: \$23 million**
- Improving environmental health surveillance by expanding the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network to a true nationwide network. Current funding is limited to 26 STLT health departments. **FY 2023 CDC NCEH Environmental Health Tracking Network: \$34 million**
- Expanding critically underfunded childhood lead poisoning prevention activities by increasing funding for CDC’s NCEH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. This funding will allow NCEH to provide grants to all 50 states and currently funded localities for surveillance to determine the extent of childhood lead poisoning. Funding will also support education about lead poisoning for the public and healthcare providers and ensure that children exposed to lead receive needed medical and environmental follow-up services. **FY 2023 CDC NCEH Lead Poisoning Prevention: \$66 million**
- Expanding the National Biomonitoring Network by providing additional resources to increase the number of states that can undertake state population-based biomonitoring surveillance. Communities continue to express concern about exposure to chemicals in their lives and during environmental emergencies. Our country, however, is unable to provide data about these exposures to STLT health departments.
- Strengthening and expanding funding to additional states under the National Asthma Control Program. This program tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention, and builds capacity in state programs. It is estimated that approximately 25

million Americans currently have asthma, including nearly 6 million children. The program has been highly effective; rates of asthma have increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased. **FY 2023 CDC NCEH Asthma: \$33.5 million**

- Expanding the Climate and Health Program to all 50 states. This program currently provides 16 states and 2 cities with funding to help diagnose and prepare for the serious adverse health impacts of climate change including extreme heat, severe storms, floods, droughts, increases in air pollution and pollen, and the spread of infectious and vector borne diseases (e.g., Lyme disease and dengue fever). Increased funding will allow CDC NCEH to implement a 50-state program and provide support to STLT health departments to help identify interventions that most effectively protect the public from the negative health effects of climate change. **FY 2023 CDC NCEH Climate Change: \$75 million**

Increasing the country's investment in environmental health prevention activities today will help reduce illness, disease, injury, health disparities, and deaths from environmental threats in the future. More than 70% of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities through STLT health organizations and agencies, national public health partners, and academic institutions.

CDC NCEH provides the guidance necessary to protect this country from unhealthy air and water systems, toxic substances, lead poisoning, vector borne diseases, climate change and extreme weather, and many other environmental hazards threats. Adequate investments into core environmental health activities will result in improvements in the nation's health, productivity, and happiness.

We thank you for considering our recommendation and look forward to working with you as Congress finalizes the FY 2023 Appropriations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D Gary Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D" being a simple loop and "Gary Brown" written in a more connected, flowing style.

D. Gary Brown, DrPH, CIH, RS, DAAS  
NEHA President  
[president@neha.org](mailto:president@neha.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Dyjack". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "David" being the most prominent part.

**David T. Dyjack, DrPH, CIH**  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Denver, CO  
[ddyjack@NEHA.org](mailto:ddyjack@NEHA.org)

Cc:  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell