



2020 Advocacy Activities Report

(Updated on September 4, 2020)

Date	Issue(s)	Description
February 04, 2020	Tobacco	Letter in support of HR 2339, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.
February 20, 2020	Administrative	Letter seeking a 30-day extension in the comment period responding to the Office of Management and Budget's proposed revisions to 2 CFR 25, 2 CFR 170, 2 CFR 183, and 2 CFR 200 (<i>Federal Register</i> , Vol. 85, 3766-3809).
February 20, 2020	Environmental health	Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency commenting on the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking for the Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles (Heavy Duty Engine Standards).
February 21, 2020	Tobacco	Letter in support of HR 4742, which would impose a tax on the nicotine used in e-cigarettes.
February 26, 2020	Funding, HRSA	Letter endorsing the recommendation of the Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for FY 2021. The Friends of HRSA is asking Congress to provide \$8.8 billion for HRSA's discretionary programs.
February 26, 2020	Funding, CDC	Letter endorsing the recommendations of the CDC Coalition to Congress seeking at least \$8.3 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's programs in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
February 27, 2020	Tobacco	Advertisement in <i>Politico</i> in support of HR 2339, legislation to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes.
February 28, 2020	Funding, CDC, NCEH	Letter requesting that Congress provide at least \$243 million to support the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
February 28, 2020	Funding, Title X	Letter endorsing the request of the Family Planning Coalition in urging Congress to provide \$400 million for the Title X family planning program as part of the FY 2021 appropriations bill.
March 02, 2020	Environmental health	Letter to Congress urging it to commit to leaving the Clean Air Act fully in place in any legislation to address climate change.
March 02, 2020	Environmental health	Letter to Congress in support of S 2754 and HR 5544, the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020, which would phase down the production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
March 05, 2020	Environmental health	Statement opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to censor science.
March 09, 2020	Environmental health	Letter to Congress urging an increase to \$15 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Climate and Health Program in FY 2021.
March 09, 2020	Funding, tobacco	Letter to the Senate urging an \$80 million increase (to \$310 million) in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office on Smoking and Health.
March 09, 2020	Funding, tobacco	Letter to the House urging an \$80 million increase (to \$310 million) in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office on Smoking and Health.
March 10, 2020	Funding, maternal and child health	Letter endorsing the recommendation of the Friends of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Program to provide at least \$715 million for the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

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		Services Block Grant program in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
March 11, 2020	Tobacco	Advertisement in <i>Politico</i> thanking members of the House for supporting HR 2339, legislation to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes.
March 11, 2020	Tobacco	Advertisement in <i>Politico</i> thanking members of the Congressional Black Caucus for supporting HR 2339, legislation to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarettes.
March 13, 2020	Funding, Covid-19	Letter thanking the Trump administration and Congressional leaders for supporting the passage of the \$8.3 billion supplemental appropriations bill, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.
March 13, 2020	Funding, maternal and child health	Letter urging Congress to prioritize funding for various maternal and child health programs in the FY 2021 appropriations bill.
March 13, 2020	Funding, NCHS	Endorsement of the FY 2021 recommendation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics from the Friends of the NCHS. The coalition is recommending an appropriation of at least \$189 million.
March 13, 2020	Covid-19	Statement on "The Coronavirus Testing Fiasco."
March 16, 2020	Funding AHRQ	Letter to the Senate endorsing the recommendation of the Friends of AHRQ requesting \$471 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in FY 2021.
March 16, 2020	Funding AHRQ	Letter to the House endorsing the recommendation of the Friends of AHRQ requesting \$471 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality in FY 2021.
March 20, 2020	Administrative	Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency seeking a 60-day extension and a public hearing to respond to the Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.
March 20, 2020	Covid-19	Letter urging Congressional support for the PAID Leave Act (Providing Americans Insured Days of Leave Act).
March 24, 2020	Covid-19	Letter (along with other members of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions) urging Congress to consider the unique economic and educational needs of the nation's health professions schools and students, and the associations that represent them, in any federal legislative or stimulus package.
March 24, 2020	Covid-19	Letter (along with other members of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions) urging the Trump administration to consider the unique economic and educational needs of the nation's health professions schools and students, and the associations that represent them, in any federal legislative or stimulus package.
March 25, 2020	Funding, Covid-19	Letter calling on Congress to provide at least \$824 million in FY 2021 funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement and at least \$474 million for programs of the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.
March 27, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Congress and the administration providing recommendations on protecting older Americans from Covid-19.
March 30, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to the Trump administration urging that changes to the Covid-19 social distancing recommendations be driven by science, that adequate personal protective equipment be provided

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		to essential medical personnel, and that economic, nutritional and education support be provided to workers, small businesses, families and children facing steep sacrifices as a result of the pandemic.
March 30, 2020	Funding, firearms	Letter asking members of the House to provide \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.
March 30, 2020	Funding, firearms	Letter asking members of the Senate to provide \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.
April 03, 2020	Covid-19	Letter calling on the administration to take immediate action to alleviate the critical shortage of ventilators and personal protective equipment.
April 03, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Congressional leaders urging support for significant, long-term investments in public health infrastructure. The letter urges congress to provide \$4.5 billion in additional annual funding to fund additional preparedness activities.
April 03, 2020	Funding	Letter urging a \$50 million increase (to \$100 million) in funding for public health data/IT systems modernization within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
April 03, 2020	Covid-19	Summary of essential activities undertaken by ASPPH members to address the coronavirus pandemic.
April 06, 2020	Workforce	Fact sheet on <i>Keeping Communities Healthy by Investing in the Public Health Workforce</i> .
April 07, 2020	Vaccines	Letter urging the enactment of HR 2862, the Vaccine Awareness Campaign to Champion Immunization Nationally and Enhance Safety Act of 2019.
April 10, 2020	Covid-19	Statement on “Academic Public Health’s Essential Roles in Addressing Covid-19.”
April 14, 2020	Environmental health	Statement in opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposal to maintain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter.
April 15, 2020	Covid-19, WHO	Letter to Donald Trump urging the United States to remain a member of the World Health Organization and for the US to continue its financial contribution to the Organization.
April 16, 2020	Environmental Health	Statement opposing the Environmental Protection Agency’s final rule on Mercury and Air Toxic Standards.
April 16, 2020	Funding	Letter to Congressional leaders urging a larger funding allocation to the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill in FY 2021.
April 23, 2020	FDA; Tobacco	Letter to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration urging disclosure of tobacco products for which premarket applications have been filed by the court-ordered deadline.
April 24, 2020	Covid-19, WHO	Letter to Donald Trump urging his administration to continue the United States’ funding contribution to the World Health Organization.
April 29, 2020	Covid-19; science	Statement calling on federal, state and local authorities to adhere to evidence and public health expertise in making decisions on when to lift social distancing orders, including shelter-in-place orders and the closure of none-essential businesses.
April 29, 2020	Covid-19	Letter urging Congressional support for the PAID Leave Act (Providing Americans Insured Days of Leave Act).

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May 04, 2020	Covid-19, immigration	Letter urging regulatory or legislative action to maintain work authorization for individuals currently in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status during the Covid-19 national emergency.
May 04, 2020	Covid-19; equity	Letter to Congressional leaders urging them to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update Covid-19 surveillance systems to collect data on patients' race, ethnicity, sex, age, primary language, sexual orientation, disability status, and socioeconomic status, as well as various outcomes.
May 04, 2020	Covid-19; equity	Letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar urging him to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to update Covid-19 surveillance systems to collect data on patients' race, ethnicity, sex, age, primary language, sexual orientation, disability status, and socioeconomic status, as well as various outcomes.
May 05, 2020	Funding, Covid-19	Letter to Congressional leaders in support of providing critical emergency supplemental resources to respond to the pandemic and endorsing the creation of a new budget category -- "Health Defense Operations (HDO)" -- that would be exempt from various provisions of the Budget Control Act.
May 05, 2020	Funding, ATSDR	Letter in support of increased funding in FY 2021 for the Center for Disease Protection and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
May 05, 2020	Funding, nutrition	Letter to Congressional leaders urging the appropriation of \$10 million in supplemental funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) program.
May 13, 2020	Covid-19	Fact Sheet on protecting the health of America's older adults during Covid-19 and beyond and related legislation.
May 14, 2020	Covid-19; Workforce	Letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) urging passage of legislation to create the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program.
May 15, 2020	WHO	Letter to Congressional appropriators asking them to support honoring the United States' financial obligations to the United Nations, as part of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill.
May 18, 2020	EPA, science	Statement calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to withdraw the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking to "Strengthen Transparency in Regulatory Science."
May 18, 2020	Covid-19, social determinants of health	Letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) asking them to include the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020 (HR 6561) in any further iterations of legislation to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.
May 18, 2020	Covid-19	Op-Ed essay by Drs. Sandro Galea and Laura Magaña published by <i>The Hill</i> , "Preventing the next pandemic through investment in academic public health."
May 20, 2020	Covid-19, science	Letter to the Director of the National Institutes of Health voicing alarm at the revocation of a peer-reviewed research grant for studies of coronaviruses due to White House pressure.
May 22, 2020	Funding, Title X	Letter urging support for the Title X family planning program, including \$400 million in funding for the program in FY 2021.
May 26, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to leaders of the G20 Group urging pragmatic, science-based approaches to managing the Covid-19 pandemic.

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May 26, 2020	Covid-19	Letter thanking Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Cory Booker (D-NJ) for introducing the Strengthening the Public Health Workforce Act (S 3737).
May 29, 2020	Administrative	Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency seeking an extension to the comment deadline for the review of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter.
May 29, 2020	Health equity	Letter endorsing the Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) for Immigrant Women & Families Act of 2020 (S 3799).
May 29, 2020	Covid-19, WHO	Statement opposing Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the World Health Organization.
June 03, 2020	Patient identifier	Letter to Senate leaders urging the rejection of the appropriation's rider prohibiting the spending of federal dollars to promulgate or adopt a national unique patient identifier.
June 03, 2020	Patient identifier	Letter to House leaders urging the rejection of the appropriation's rider prohibiting the spending of federal dollars to promulgate or adopt a national unique patient identifier.
June 09, 2020	Funding, budget	Letter to Congressional leaders urging support for a new Health Defense Operations budget designation.
June 17, 2020	Administrative	Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency seeking an extension to the comment period on the proposed rule, "Increasing consistency in considering benefits and costs in the Clean Air Act rulemaking process."
June 22, 2020	Covid-19, PSLF	Letter (along with other members of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions) to the Assistant Secretary of the Dept. of Education on the implementation of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and related regulatory issues.
June 26, 2020	Covid-19, workforce	Letter to Senate leaders in support of the S 3737, the Strengthening the Public Health Workforce Act.
June 26, 2020	Covid-19, workforce	Letter to House leaders in support of the S 3737, the Strengthening the Public Health Workforce Act.
June 30, 2020	WHO	Petition and media statement in support of US funding to - and engagement with - the World Health Organization.
July 1, 2020	CDC, Covid-19	Letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar urging him to strengthen and affirm the role of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
July 2, 2020	Infrastructure	Letter to congressional leaders in support of increased, sustained annual funding for state/local/tribal/territorial public health infrastructure.
July 3, 2020	Opioids, harm reduction	Amicus (friend of the court brief) in support of efforts to open a safe injection site in Philadelphia (<i>Safehouse v. United States of America</i>)
July 7, 2020	Tobacco	Letter to House Appropriations Committee leaders asking them to oppose any efforts to weaken FDA's authority over cigars or any other tobacco products when the Fiscal Year 2021 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill is marked-up.
July 10, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar asking him to renew the public health emergency declaration for at least an additional 90 days before it expires on July 25.
July 10, 2020	Immigration	Letter to the Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf opposing the Trump administration's policy seeking to deport international students forced to take online-only classes due to the

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		Covid-19 pandemic. The letter was signed by all members of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions.
July 10, 2020	Tobacco, Covid-19	Letter endorsing HR 7286, the “Quit Because of COVID-19 Act”, which would expand tobacco cessation coverage to ensure that all Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program enrollees have access to the full array of proven tobacco cessation treatments.
July 13, 2020	Immigration	Amicus (friend of the court brief) in support of Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology litigation seeking to block implementation of the Trump Administration’s policy seeking to deport international students forced to take online-only classes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
July 13, 2020	Environmental health	Statement in opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposal to maintain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone pollution.
July 13, 2020	Covid-19	Statement opposing White House efforts to discredit Dr. Anthony Fauci.
July 15, 2020	Covid-19, social determinants of health	Letter to Congressional leaders asking that the “Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020 (HR 6561) be placed on the Congressional calendar.
July 15, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Mike Pence urging the administration to cease efforts to discredit Dr. Anthony Fauci.
July 16, 2020	Covid-19, WHO	Statement from the Global Network for Academic Public Health on the WHO’s response to COVID-19, with support of the founding associations of the Global Network: Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH), Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA), Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), and ASPPH.
July 17, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Mike Pence and other Trump administration officials asking that they immediately reverse the decision to bypass the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the collection and analysis of COVID-19 patient data.
July 20, 2020	Covid 19, CDC	Open letter to President Donald Trump from the leaders of America’s public health schools and programs.
July 21, 2020	Covid 19	Press release , report , and tables related to recommendations on how states and communities can increase transparency about the risk of COVID-19 and be held accountable for progress. The report and recommendations, “Tracking COVID-19 in the United States: From Information Catastrophe to Empowered Communities,” includes a review of state-level COVID-19 data dashboards and draws on best practices to define a set of 15 essential indicators. The report was organized by Dr. Tom Frieden of Resolve to Save Lives.
July 21, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Congress addressing what must be done to ensure that every American is able to safely vote this fall.
July 21, 2020	Covid-19, climate change	Letter to Congress concerning “building back better” by advancing preparedness and addressing issues related to climate change.
July 23, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Congress urging it to dedicate resources and oversight to ensuring language and communications needs are not a barrier to COVID-19 public health knowledge, testing and treatment.

July 30, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar thanking him for renewing the public health emergency declaration because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
August 3, 2020	Environmental health	Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency commenting on the notice of proposed rule making on “Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Benefits and Costs in the Clean Air Act Rulemaking Process.”
August 6, 2020	Funding	Letter to Congressional leaders requesting emergency supplemental funding for the National Institutes of Health.
August 13, 2020	Environmental health	Statement opposing the Environmental Protection Agency’s move to rollback protections from oil and gas pollution by weakening protections against methane pollution.
August 13, 2020	Covid-19, tobacco	Letter to Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) in support of S 4524, the Quit Because of Covid-19 Act, which would expand tobacco cessation coverage to ensure that all Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program enrollees have access to the full array of proven tobacco cessation treatments.
August 14, 2020	Covid-19	Endorsement of S 2526, the Coronavirus Language Access Act, which would provide funding for state and local responses to include Limited English Proficient populations, as well as ensure that federal agencies take steps to ensure equal access to Covid-19 programs.
August 19, 2020	Funding	Letter to House leaders endorsing HR 8067, legislation that would direct the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to conduct or support on the most critical health system issues related to Covid-19.
August 26, 2020	Administrative	Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency requesting an extension to the comment period related to the proposal to “Retain the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards.”
August 26, 2020	Social determinants of health	Endorsement of HR 6561/S 4440, the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2020.
August 26, 2020	Lebanon	Statement from the Global Network for Academic Public Health on the Beirut explosion.
August 31, 2020	Covid-19, science	Statement titled, “CDC Should Reconsider Testing Guidance Change; Trump Urged to End Pressure Campaign on CDC, FDA, and NIH.”
September 3, 2020	Covid-19	Letter to Mike Pence expressing serious concerns with the recent change to testing guidelines from the CDC that diminishes the importance of testing asymptomatic individuals who were exposed to Covid-19. The letter said that ASPPH and other co-signers “believe the revision does not reflect the best available science and the best interest of the public’s health and has resulted in confusion among public health and medical professionals and the public. We ask the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reverse the revision.”