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County Administration Building
 105 East Anapamu Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

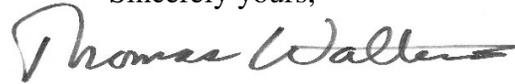
I have sent the enclosed letters to members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara, expressing its support for the highest level of funding for local public health responsibilities in the *FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations* bill.

State and local governments form the foundation of our nation's public health system, and are an integral part of any emergency response plan, whether a threat is biological, chemical, or conventional. The strength of this foundation depends on sustained, consistent investment and cooperation between all levels of government to address public health and infrastructure issues. Specific public health and bioterrorism programs of particular importance to the County include:

- CDC's Community Prevention Grants;
- Community health centers;
- 340B Drug Discount Program;
- Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant;
- Tuberculosis control and prevention;
- Title X Family planning;
- Substance abuse block grants;
- Section 317 immunization programs;
- Mental health block grants;
- Preventative health services block grants;
- Prevention & Public Health Fund;
- Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs, including ADAP (Part B);
- Health care safety net grants; and
- Community-based health and nutrition services for Older Americans.

President Trump's "Skinny Budget" proposal released in March would seriously jeopardize funding for many of these programs. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Subcommittee to ensure that public health activities performed by State and local governments are funded at the highest possible level in the *FY 2018 Labor/HHS Appropriations* bill.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Walters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg