



June 1, 2023

The Honorable Ken Borton
The Honorable Cameron Cavitt
The Honorable Betsy Coffia
The Honorable Joseph Fox
The Honorable Neil Friske
The Honorable Roger Hauck
The Honorable Mike Hoadley
The Honorable Tom Kunse
The Honorable Bill Schuette
The Honorable Curt VanderWall

Dear Northern Michigan Representatives,

Recently the Michigan Legislature considered the Governor's \$30M allocation in the Michigan Budget for Essential Local Public Health Services: Cost Shared Services. While the Senate approved the allocation, only \$14M was approved in the current House HHD Bill (HB 4310). As Health Officers for the seven local health departments that serve the Northern Lower Peninsula, **we urge you to preserve the proposed \$30M increase for Essential Local Public Health Services in the FY24 Budget.**

Essential Local Public Health Services are a core set of mandated basic public health services that all local health departments must provide. According to the Michigan Public Health Code (PA 368 of 1978), the state is required to contribute 50% of funding for these services and the local health departments match the remaining 50% through local match dollars. The last time the state met this requirement was 1993.

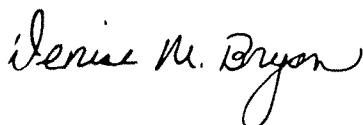
Michigan's local public health system cannot continue to provide quality essential services with chronic underfunding:

- Food Protection education and licensing protects diners from risk of foodborne illness
- Private Groundwater/Public Water Supply education and regulation assures safe drinking water
- On-site Sewage Disposal Management assures septic systems do not pollute Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, or inland lakes

- Hearing and Vision Screening provides early identification of symptoms in children age 3-5 which interfere with learning and/or require care from a physician specialist.
- Sexually Transmitted Disease Control and Prevention targets immediate and long-term effects of diseases like syphilis, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV.
- Infectious Disease Control mitigates effects of outbreaks by investigating cases of disease such as pertussis, HIV, and tuberculosis.

These are often referred to as “silent” services since they only come to light in a crisis. Local health departments work every day to prevent disease and protect the environment. Please preserve the proposed \$30M increase for Essential Public Health Services in the FY 24 Budget.


Sincerely,



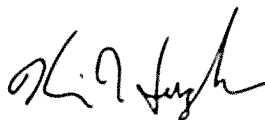
Denise Bryan, Health Officer
District Health Department #2
District Health Department #4



Wendy Hirschenberger, Health Officer
Grand Traverse County Health Department



Steve Hall, Health Officer
Central Michigan District
Health Department



Kevin Hughes, Health Officer
District Health Department #10



Dan Thorell, Health Officer
Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department
Health Department of Northwest Michigan