



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials  
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November 21, 2008

Michael Fraser, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
2030 M Street, NW  
Suite 350  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Fraser:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is pleased to provide this letter of endorsement for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs' (AMCHP) comments to the proposed project, Maternal and Child Health Services Title V Block Grant Program Guidance and Forms for the Title V Application/Annual Report (OMB No. 0915-0172).

ASTHO supports AMCHP's request for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau MCHB to strengthen reporting on Title V agency workforce information in the annual block grant application in order to collect uniform data from all state and territorial Title V agencies. Such information is critical for tracking MCH workforce needs. Collecting this information in a timely and uniform way is consistent with ASTHO's vision of a consistent, repeatable, affordable system to enumerate the entire public health workforce. Data are important to the development of a strong, reliable public health workforce, because data forms the foundation for public health planning, evaluation, policy development, and workforce development. It is critical to the security and welfare of the country that there exists an accurate and complete portrait about the public health workforce.

ASTHO is the 501(c) (3) non-profit membership association representing the chiefs of state and territorial health agencies and the 120,000 individuals who work for them. It is supported by 57 members, senior state and territorial health agency leadership, an active Alumni Society of former members, a network of 20 affiliated organizations, and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul Jarris, MD, MBA  
Executive Director