CSTE Member Talking Points – Advocacy on FY 2022 Federal Appropriations

- Our public health system is in dire need of sustained increases in funding. We cannot continue to rely on emergency and supplemental funding when we have a crisis. Congress must urgently pass Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations legislation that ensures our nation’s public health infrastructure is fully funded in the midst of a global pandemic.

- Increased federal investment is critical not only to continue our frontline response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to ensure we are prepared in advance to protect Americans from any future emerging threats.

- As we continue to battle the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic it has become even clearer that our public health data systems are in dire need of upgrades.

- Continuing resolutions of any duration damage our public health infrastructure and impede our ability to respond to COVID-19 and any other emergencies. As public health officials in every jurisdiction respond to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and the potential for new variants of concern, a year-long CR or stagnant funding for public health simply puts American lives in danger.

- The FY 2022 House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bills include essential increases for CDC and an equally critical increase in funding, to $150 million, specifically for CDC’s Data Modernization Initiative (DMI). A large portion of this funding would flow to state and local departments of health for much-needed infrastructure improvements. This funding would support efforts like eCR implementation to improve capture of critical public health data such as race/ethnicity and linking surveillance data to immunization registries to improve understanding of vaccine effectiveness.

- Congress must move quickly to pass FY 2022 appropriations, including at least $150 million for CDC’s DMI. This is essential to our nation’s health.

- COVID-19 will not be the last public health crisis to threaten our nation. We have learned many lessons from this pandemic, including that our public health infrastructure and data systems were not prepared to respond to a highly infectious, fast-moving virus. We need public health systems that are equipped to react quickly and systematically to this and any future public health threat. The way to achieve this is through robust long-term, sustained federal investments in public health infrastructure and data systems.