

## Dear Bill Ford,

We, the undersigned professionals dedicated to safeguarding and improving public health, write to urge you to tackle the climate crisis as a top priority for Ford Motor Company and support the Clean Car Standards.

Global warming is threatening the health of Americans across the country, by increasing the number of days with extreme heat and bad air quality and placing vulnerable citizens at risk. Heat-related illnesses, asthma, and respiratory diseases are on the rise.

We ask you to move forwards, not backwards. With transportation emissions the new top source of climate pollution in this country, you have the power to dramatically cut the greenhouse gas pollution fueling this crisis. We urge you to shift to 100% zero emission vehicles as soon as possible.

We also urge you to support this country's best climate program, the Clean Car Standards. When fully implemented, the existing standards are set to save 6 billion metric tons of dangerous global warming pollution and cut our oil use by 12 billion barrels. Weakening theses standards in any way would be a mistake.

As doctors, nurses, medical researchers, and others employed in the health and public health fields, we understand the clear connection between preventing the worst impacts of climate change and human health. None of us want to leave the next generation with epidemics of asthma and respiratory illnesses, heat strokes, and dangerous insect and waterborne diseases. But that's exactly what climate change is causing today, and it will only get worse unless we act now to drastically cut the pollution fueling the problem.

The risks climate change poses to public health have been well-documented. According to the 2016 *Climate and Health Assessment*—a project of more than 100 public health experts and climate scientists—climate change poses a significant health risk to every American. For everyone from the young to the elderly, climate change will exacerbate current health threats and create new challenges.

Health damages outlined in the assessment include but are not limited to:

- 1. Air pollution and airborne allergens will likely increase, worsening allergy and asthma conditions.
- 2. Extreme heat will increase the number of premature deaths, from thousands to tens of thousands each summer.
- 3. Extreme weather and other events related to climate change will exacerbate underlying medical conditions and increase exposure to foodborne and waterborne illness risks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> USGCRP, 2016: *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment*. Crimmins, A., J. Balbus, J.L. Gamble, C.B. Beard, J.E. Bell, D. Dodgen, R.J. Eisen, N. Fann, M.D. Hawkins, S.C. Herring, L. Jantarasami, D.M. Mills, S. Saha, M.C. Sarofim, J. Trtanj, and L. Ziska, Eds. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, 312 pp. http://dx.doi.org/10.7930/J0R49NQX

- 4. Worsening storms and wildfires will disrupt infrastructure, including power, water, transportation, and communication systems that are essential to maintaining access to health care and emergency response services and safeguarding human health.
- 5. Climate change will have the largest health impact on vulnerable populations, including those with low incomes, some communities of color, limited English proficiency and immigrant groups, Indigenous peoples, children, pregnant women, older adults, vulnerable occupational groups, persons with disabilities, and persons with preexisting or chronic medical conditions such as asthma and respiratory disease.<sup>2</sup>

Ford plays a key role in stopping the impacts of climate change and building a healthy future. Combustion engines and the burning of fossil fuels now cause the majority of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. By producing 100% clean cars, you will reduce carbon pollution and limit the health and environmental impacts of climate change.

We ask Ford to support the strongest possible fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards for automobiles, while encouraging policies and incentives for zero emissions vehicles to fully transition our transportation sector to zero-carbon pollution.

We are doing our part to safeguard the health of our communities. You can do the same by moving our country to a clean energy future and phasing out the use of dirty fossil fuels as quickly as possible. We want to do all we can to protect current and future generations from climate change. We want to leave behind a legacy we're proud of, and we know you do too.

## Sincerely,

Nicole Cabrera, MPH. Ivanof Bay Tribe. Anchorage, AK.

Anne Brisendine, DrPH. University of Alabama at Birmingham. Birmingham, AL.

Jennifer Evans, MEd, CHES. University of Alabama. Tuscaloosa, AL.

Kayla Thompson, BSW. University of Alabama at Birmingham. Birmingham, AL.

Lisa McCormick, DrPH. University of Alabama Birmingham School of Public Health. Birmingham, AL.

Miriam Van Dyke, MPH. Emory University. Oxford, AL.

Rebecca Eaton, MA. University of Alabama. Northport, AL.

Carole Garner, MPH, RDN. Association for Community Health Improvement. Little Rock, AR.

Floribella Redondo, BS. Arizona Community Health Workers Association. Yuma, AZ.

Maria Velasco, BA. El Rio Community Health Center. Tucson, AZ.

Nicolas Lopez, MPH, MA. University of Arizona. Tucson, AZ.

Sheryl Lee, MPH. Nutritionist. Mesa, AZ.

Valerie Madera, MPH. University of Arizona. Tucson, AZ.

Angelica Chavez, MEd. Monterey County Health Department. Salinas, CA.

Brandon Brown, PhD. University of California, Riverside. Riverside, CA.

Bruce Bekkar, MD. Climate Action Campaign. San Diego, CA.

Cindy Ochieng, MD. University of California Berkeley School of Public Health. Berkeley, CA.

Cynthia Conteas-Wood, RN, PHN, MPA. Westridge School for Girls. Porter Ranch, CA.

Debra Olson, MPH. ADRA International. Loma Linda, CA.

Dianne Leibrandt, MPH. Riverside University Health System-Public Health. Corona, CA.

Elena Maciel, BA. County of Monterey. Salinas, CA.

Erika Brown, MPH. University of California Berkeley School of Public Health. Berkeley, CA.

Erika Pepper, MPH. University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

Erin Grinshteyn, PhD. University of San Francisco. San Francisco, CA.

Erlyana Erlyana, MD, PhD. California State University Long Beach. Long Beach, CA.

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 $<sup>^2\,\</sup>mathrm{lbid}.$ 

Ernie Medina, DrPH. Loma Linda University School of Public Health. Loma Linda, CA.

Flavia Chen, MPH. University of California San Francisco. San Francisco, CA.

Gabriele Windgasse, DrPH. Columbia University. Loomis, CA.

Helen Magnuson, MPH. Nutrition Consultant. Carmichael, CA.

Isabelle Sternfeld, MSPH. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Solana Beach, CA.

Jamie Fuega, MPH. Public Health Institute. Oakland, CA.

Janine Cataldo, PhD RN. University of California, San Francisco. Berkeley, CA.

Jay Orr, JD. Claremont Graduate University. Corona, CA.

Kristine Parungao, RDH. University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

Marissa Brash, DrPH, MPH, CPH. Azusa Pacific University. Azusa, CA.

Monique Hosein, MPH. University of California Berkeley School of Public Health. Albany, CA.

Quannetta Edwards, PhD, FNP, WHNP, MPH, AGN-BC. Western University of Health Sciences. Pomona, CA.

S. Michael Johnson, MPA. City of Pasadena Department of Public Health. Pasadena, CA.

Sadie Wilson, RN, MSN. Marie Star Health Services. San Leandro, CA.

Sara Shoaib, PHN. American Nurses Alliance. Alhambra, CA.

Sarah Snyder, RN. Loma Linda University. Loma Linda, CA.

Sarah Van Orman, MD, MMM. University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA.

Stephanie Weldon, MSHS. Infant Hearing Screening Specialists. West Covina, CA.

Weiyu Zhang, MPH. Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Los Angeles, CA.

Diana Jaramillo, MPHc. University of Colorado. Denver, CO.

Eudora Claw, PhD. University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Cortez, CO.

Gisele Dias de Oliveira, MS, PPH. Centura Health. Denver, CO.

Lorann Stallones, MPH, PhD. Colorado School of Public Health. Laporte, CO.

Michelle Fredrickson, MPHc. Colorado School of Public Health. Fort Collins, CO.

Pamela Gould, MPH. City of Golden Colorado. Golden, CO.

Haeyoon Chang, BSc., MPHc. Yale School of Public Health. New Haven, CT.

Jack Tsai, PhD. Yale University. New Haven, CT.

Jenn Cavallari, ScD, CIH. University of Connecticut. Burlington, CT.

Ofer Harel, PhD. University of Connecticut. West Hartford, CT.

Surai Arshanapally, BS. Yale School of Public Health. New Haven, CT.

Thomas Gecewicz, CHO. Community Health Consultants. Bridgeport, CT.

Amanda Quintana, MPH. USAID. Washington, DC.

Andrew Smith, MPH. Grant Thornton. Washington, DC.

Anne Beach, MPH. National Cancer Institute. Washington, DC.

Carlisha Gentles, PharmD, BCPS, CDE. Dissipating Disparities, Inc.. Washington, DC.

Emily D'Iorio, MPH. Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, DC.

Emily Moore, MPH. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Washington, DC.

Emily Szwiec, MPH. Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health. Washington, DC.

Erin Prapas, MPH, MA. Kurma Consulting. Washington, DC.

Erin Williams, CPH. Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health. Washington, DC.

Holly Hanneke, BS. Truth Initiative. Washington, DC.

Janelle Nichols, MPH. Public Health Foundation. Washington, DC.

Kelsey Donnellan, MPH. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. Washington, DC.

Leah Ettman, MS, MPH. Center for Science in the Public Interest. Washington, DC.

Nathaniel DeNicola, MD, MSHP. American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Washington, DC.

Nikhil Holla, BA. Urban Institute. Washington, DC.

Peggy Opitz, MPH. United Mine Workers of America. Washington, DC.

Rachel Glassford, BS, MPHc. George Washington University. Washington, DC.

Rada Dagher, Ph.D., MPH. National Institutes of Health. Washington, DC.

Sarah Zerbonne, MPH. US Global Change Research Program. Washington, DC.

Surili Patel, MS. American Public Health Association. Washington, DC.

Wan Lee, BA. Chemonics. Washington, DC.

Amy Gootee-Ash, MS. Delaware State University. Dover, DE.

Ana Gonzalez, MPH. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.

Anna Shao, MPHc. Emory University. Atlanta, FL.

Bryan Russell, BA. Florida Department of Health. Tallahassee, FL.

Caroline Valencia, MPH. University of Florida. West Palm Beach, FL.

Christa Cook, PhD, MSN, RN. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL.

Cyril Blavo, DO. International Health Initiatives, Inc.. Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Ellen Kent, MPH, CPH. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.

Enid Sisskin, PhD. University of West Florida. Pensacola, FL.

Evan Hegarty, BS. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.

Gloria Schmitz, MA. University of Miami. Miami, FL.

Joan Tucker, PhD, MPH. JCOT Associates, Inc. Lutz, FL.

Jordan King, MPHc. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL.

Karishma Chhabria, PhD, MPH. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL.

Katryne Lukens Bull, MPH. University of Florida. Jacksonville, FL.

Michelle Lyman, BS. University of South Florida. Tampa, FL.

Nisha Vijayakumar, BDS, DrPH. University of South Florida. Tampa, Fl.

Robinson Gaviria, RN, MPH, LAc. Relief Acupuncture. Miami, FL.

Sharmila Aryal, MPH. Broward Regional Health Planning Council. Davie, FL.

Shivani Khan, PhDc. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL.

Tamala McDowell, DHED, MPH, BS. A.T. Still University. Patrick AFB, FL.

TJ Moore, MPH. University of West Florida. Pensacola, FL.

Vicki Osborne, MS. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL.

Alisha Dalton, MS. Morehouse School of Medicine. Lithonia, GA.

Amanda Powell, MPH, PhD. Georgia State University. Loganville, GA.

Amelia Blumberg, MSPH. Georgia Emerging Infections Program. Atlanta, GA.

Ami Shah, MPH. Northrop Grumman Corporation. Atlanta, GA.

Anna Sheremenko, PHD. ICF International. Atlanta, GA.

Anne Mellinger-Birdsong, MD, MPH. Mothers and Others for Clean Air. Atlanta, GA.

Ashley Tolbert, MPH. Morehouse School of Medicine. Lithonia, GA.

Chris Bower, MPH. Georgia Emerging Infections Program. Atlanta, GA.

Christina Fuller, ScD. Georgia State University. Decatur, GA.

Cristian Acero, BSN. Mercer Public Health Professional. Buford, GA.

Dana Williamson, MPH. Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Rex, GA.

Danielle Scheinman, MPH. Emory University. Atlanta, GA.

Dawn Holman, MPH. Center for Disease Control. Atlanta, GA.

Denise Gouveia, MEd. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.

Ebony Johnson, MPA. United Way of Greater Atlanta. Atlanta, GA.

Elicia Archer, MPH. Excelcare. Marietta, GA.

Elise Barnes, MPHc. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.

Elizabeth Do, BS, MPHc. Center for Pan Asian Community Services. Atlanta, GA.

Emily Jones, MPH. March of Dimes. Atlanta, GA.

Emmy Tran, PharmD, MPH. Center for Disease Control. Atlanta, GA.

Erin Peterson, MPH. Center for Disease Control. Atlanta, GA.

Fatu Kamara, MPH. GMC. Norcross, GA.

Hatidza Zaganjor, MPH. FHI 360. Atlanta, GA.

Hilary Merlin, MEd. Emory University. Decatur, GA.

Julie Reagan, JD, PhD, MPH. Georgia Southern University. Statesboro, GA.

Katherine Virgo, PHD, MBA, FASCO. Emory University. Atlanta, GA.

Katrina Brantley, MPH. Department of Public Health. Jonesboro, GA.

Kris Subbiah, MPH. Emory University. Atlanta, GA.

Kyle Openo, MPH. Georgia Emerging Infections Program. Atlanta, GA.

Lauren Roberts, MSPP. Georgia Institute of Technology. Marietta, GA.

Linda Nwoga, PhD. Morehouse School of Medicine. Atlanta, GA.

Lucy Peipins, PhD. Center for Disease Control. Atlanta, GA.

Mary White, ScD. Center for Disease Control. Atlanta, GA.

Mary Ann Moriles, BSN. Southern Regional Medical Center. Jonesboro, GA.

McKinley Thomas, EDD. Georgia Southern University. Savannah, GA.

Melissa Alperin, MPH, MCHES. Emory University. Decatur, GA.

Melody Riefer, MSW. Advocates for Human Potential. Atlanta, GA.

Michael Bien, MPHc. University of Georgia. Athens, GA.

Michelle D'Amico, BA. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.

Nikka Sorrells, MPH. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists . Atlanta, GA.

Porsha Curtis, MPH. Morehouse School of Medicine. Stone Mountain, GA.

Quynh Do, PhD, MPH. Center for Disease Control. Atlanta, GA.

Rebecca Yi, MPA. Georgia Department of Public Health. Suwanee, GA.

Rebekah Blakney, MPH. Georgia Emerging Infections Program. Atlanta, GA.

Saket Patel, MPH. Augusta University. McDonough, GA.

Sarah Witter, MPH. Atlanta Research and Education Foundation. Decatur, GA.

Shannon Pruitt, MPH. Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Atlanta, GA.

Sherry Ketemepi, MPH. Leidos. Suwanee, GA.

Stephanie Thomas, MSPH. Georgia Emerging Infections Program. Atlanta, GA.

Stephanie Trail, MPH. Live Forward. Athens, GA.

Tanya Seneviratne, BS. Emory University. Atlanta, GA.

Tim Frederick, MPH. Scientist with the Federal Government. Atlanta, GA.

Tina Phillips, MPA. Dekalb County Health. Decatur, GA.

Tori D'usse, MPH. Georgia Emerging Infections Program. Atlanta, GA.

Trina Oueen, MA. Kennesaw State University. Atlanta, GA.

Victoria Sanon, MPH. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.

Amanda Janson, MPHc. University of Iowa College of Public Health. Iowa City, IA.

Audrey Tran Lam, MPH. Urban Farmer. Cedar Rapids, IA.

Elizabeth Baker, PhD, MPH, CPH. Des Moines University. Des Moines, IA.

Emily Kimpston, BS, MPHc. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA.

Erin Heiden, PhD, MPH. University of Northern Iowa Center for Social and Behavioral Research. Alden, IA.

Jason Daniel-Ulloa, MPH PhD. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA.

Kayla Heslin, MPH. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA.

Paul Gilbert, PhD, ScM. University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA.

Anna Carvlin, MPH. Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics. Blue Island, IL.

Brian Chen, PhD. University of Illinois. Springfield, IL.

Heide Cygan, RN, DNP, PHNA-BC. Rush University. Chicago, IL.

Jamie Mayer, MPH, Label Insight, Inc., Chicago, IL.

Janet Williams, MA. Respiratory Health Association. Chicago, IL.

Jason Murphy, MD. University of Illinois, Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Lanie Kepler, MPA. Illinois Public Health Association. Springfield, IL.

Leslie Carnahan, MPH. University of Illinois at Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Libeth Rosas, MPHc. University of Illinois. Chicago, IL.

Meghan Wendland, DDS, MPH. New York University Langone. Chicago, IL.

Pamela Levin, RN PhD, PHNA-BC. Rush University. Chicago, IL.

Peter Orris, MD, MPH. University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System. Chicago, IL.

Rachel Rubin, MD, MPH. Cook County Department of Public Health. Chicago, IL.

Richard Hill, MPH.MPA, McHenry County Department of Health, Hebron, IL.

Samantha Borow, MPHc. DePaul University. Chicago, IL.

Sari Shuman, MPH, MSW. RTI International. Northbrook, IL.

September Cahue, MPH. American Joint Replacement Registry. Chicago, IL.

Shelly Sital, MPH. Northwestern University. Chicago, IL.

Tamara Hamlish, PhD. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL.

Toni Corona, LEHP. Madison County Public Health. Maryville, IL.

Jeanne Johnston, PhD. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.

Shaila Strayhorn, MPH. Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Indianapolis, IN.

Ellyn Mulcahy, PhD, MPH. Kansas State University. Manhattan, KS.

Leslie Toledo, MPH. Physicians for Peace. Prairie Village, KS.

Amanda Bassingthwaite, MPH. Health Education Manager. Hopkinsville, KY.

Angela Fosu, MPH. Kentucky Department of Health. Lexington, KY.

Barbara Polivka, RN, PhD. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY.

LeChrista Finn, DrPH. Kentucky State University. Frankfort, KY.

Michelyn Bhandari, DrPH. Eastern Kentucky University. Richmond, KY.

Tara Hart, RN. Christian County Health Department. Hopkinsville, KY.

Dee Boling, BA. Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. New Orleans, LA.

Abigail Tapper, MPH. Institute for Community Health. Boston, MA.

Arlene Ash, PhD. University of Massachusetts Medical School. Worcester, MA.

Bi-sek Hsiao, MS. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Plainfield, MA.

Christine Clifford, MPH. University of Massachusetts Medical School. Hopkinton, MA.

Emily Nink, MS. Public Health Advocacy Institute. Medford, MA.

Emma Hartswick, BA. Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. Somerville, MA.

Geoffrey Tam, BS. Education Development Center. Waltham, MA.

Gilbert Benavidez, MPH. Boston University School of Public Health. Boston, MA.

Iyue Sung, PhD. Press Ganey. Marblehead, MA.

Janine Caruso, RN, M Ed-Health. Atrius Health. Melrose, MA.

Katie Joseph, MDc. Boston University School of Medicine. Boston, MA.

Lily Yan, MD. Boston Medical Center. Boston, MA.

Lindsay Tallon, PhD, MSPH. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University. Boston, MA.

melissa sutherland, FNP. Boston College. Newton Centre, MA.

Polly Hoppin, ScD. University of Massachusetts Lowell. Jamaica Plain, MA.

Risa Silverman, MPH. UMASS School of Public Health. Amherst, MA.

Sarah Amin, PhD, MPH. Tufts University. Boston, MA.

Sharon Marable, MD, MPH. Tristan Medical. Sharon, MA.

Adena Galinsky, PhD. National Center for Health Statistics. Greenbelt, MD.

Anthony Kondracki, MD, MPH. University of Maryland School of Public Health. College Park, MD.

Ashley Charest, BA. American Psychological Association. Baltimore, MD.

Eileen McDonald, MS. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg sph. Baltimore, MD.

Feleke Tanga, MPH. Johns Hopkins University, Center for Communication Programs. Baltimore, MD.

Jamia Saunders, MD, MS. Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. Baltimore, MD.

Jennifer Rusiecki, PhD. Uniformed Services University. Bethesda, MD.

Juan Declet-Barreto, PhD. Union of Concerned Scientists. Silver Spring, MD.

Kawahya Tizhe, MD, MPH. Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Baltimore, MD.

KeshaB Baptiste-Roberts, PhD, MPH. Morgan State University. Baltimore, MD.

Landa Lusby, BSN, MPHc. Wellspan Health. Westminster, MD.

Mae Rupert, MPH. US Department of Health and Human Services. Frederick, MD.

Mayowa Ljagbemi, MPH. Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety. Columbia, MD.

Rachel Kennedy, BSN, MSN/MPHc. Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, MD.

Sabriya Dennis, DrPH. Morgan State University. Baltimore, MD.

Shannon Jordan, MPH. National Institute of Health. Bethesda, MD.

Renee Page, MPH, CLC, PS-C. Healthy Communities of the Capital Area. Farmingdale, ME.

Abraham Aiyash, MPH, BA. Michigan State University. Detroit, MI.

Aden Araya, MPH. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.

Amy Schultz, PhD, MPH. University of Michigan School of Public Health. Ann Arbor, MI.

Dixy Rajkumar, MPH. Wayne State University. Detroit, MI.

Elgin Avila, MPH. University of Arizona. Oak Park, MI.

Em Maier, MPH. Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Hazel Park, MI.

Katherine Satterfield, MPHc. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI.

Kathleen Slonager, RN. Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter. Franklin, MI.

Kindra Weid, RN, MPH. Michigan Air, Michigan Health. Manchester, MI.

Maliha Ahmed, MPHc. Wayne State University. Dearborn Heights, MI.

Natalie Sampson, PhD, MPH. University of Michigan-Dearborn. Dearborn, MI.

Ruchi Rachmale, BS. Wayne State University School of Medicine. Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Samantha Radecki, MPHc. Grand Valley State University Department of Public Health. Grand Rapids, MI.

Taylor Williams, MSPh. Meharry Medical College. Detroit, MI.

Jayda Palmer, MPH. University of Minnesota. Loretto, MN.

Jill Doberstein, MA, CTTS. Essentia Health. Duluth, MN.

Kim Dauner, MPH, PhD. University of Minnesota Duluth. Duluth, MN.

Manami Bhattacharya, MS. University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.

Thomas Chapa, MD, MPH. Granite Falls Health. Granite Falls, MN.

Trisha Karr, PhD. Winona State University. Winona, MN.

Deborah Jaegers, MA. Saint Louis University. Saint Louis, MO.

Elisabeth Scott, MSWc. Department of Health Missouri. Jefferson City, MO.

Jannette Berkley-Patton, PhD. University of Missouri - Kansas City. Kansas City, MO.

Julia Mulligan, MA, MPHc. University of Missouri. Columbia, MO.

Karen Peak, RN, PNP, MPH. Chamberlain College of Nursing. Nixa, MO.

Maggie Rossano, MPH. Saint Louis University. St. Louis, MO.

Molly Loughran, MSW, MPH. Washington University St. Louis. Saint Louis, MO.

Paulina Menichiello, MPHc. Saint Louis University. St. Louis, MO.

Shreya Nagendra, MPH. Saint Louis University. St. Louis, MO.

Spring Schmidt, PhD. St. Louis County Dept of Public Health. St. Louis, MO.

Brieah Hudson, DrPH. Liberty University. Jackson, MS.

David Buys, PhD, MSPH, CPH. Mississippi State University Extension. Starkville, MS.

Hwanseok Choi, PhD. University of Southern Mississippi. Hattiesburg, MS.

Danika Comey, MPH. Montana State University. Bozeman, MT.

Kirsten Krane, MS-MPH. Boston University. East Glacier Park, MT.

Robert Byron, MD, MPH. Bighorn Valley Health Center. Hardin, MT.

Suzanne Held, PhD. Montana State University. Bozeman, MT.

Beth Smith, RN, NE-BC, MSN. Greensboro Healthcare Collaborative. Greensboro, NC.

Brunilda Lugo, PhD. Mountain Area Health Education Center. Asheville, NC.

Cara Person, MPH, CPH. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Durham, NC.

Gabrielle Puri k, MPHc. University of North Carolina Charlotte. Charlotte, NC.

Jacob Hill, ND. University of North Carolina. Durham, NC.

Jennifer Schaal, MD. Greensboro Health Disparities Collaborative. Greensboro, NC.

Kari Thatcher, MPH. University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Greensboro, NC.

Lisa Garland, MPH. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Durham, NC.

Phillip Summers, MPH. Wake Forest School of Medicine. Winston-Salem, NC.

Robert Strack, PhD. University of North Carolina Greensboro. Greensboro, NC.

Satomi Imai, PhD. East Carolina University. Greenville, NC.

Thomas Arcury, PhD. Wake Forest School of Medicine. Winston-Salem, NC.

Victoria Jercich, MPHc. University of North Carolina Charlotte. Charlotte, NC.

Victoria Pless, BS. University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, NC.

Wayne Holden, PhD. RTI International. Research Triangle Park, NC.

Gretchen Dobervich, BSW. AMerican Indian Public Health Resource Center. Fargo, ND.

Ryan Eagle, BA. American Indian Public Health Resource Center. Fargo, ND.

Theresa Will, RN, MPH. City-County Health District. Valley City, ND.

Vanessa Tibbitts, BS, MA. American Indian Public Health Resource Center. Fargo, ND.

Ellana Haakenstad, MPH. University of Nebraska Medical Center. Omaha, NE.

Liene Topko, BA, MPHc. University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health. Omaha, NE.

Travis Hedlund, MPH, BS. County Health Department. Omaha, NE.

Emily Counts, MPHc. University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH.

Marc Hiller, DrPH, MPH. University of New Hampshire. Somersworth, NH.

Derek Shendell, D.Env, MPH. Rutgers University School of Public Health. Chatham, NJ.

Elizabeth Petit de Mange, PhD, MSN, RN. Villanova University. Berlin, NJ.

Kelly McLaughlin, MPH, MCHES. Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative. Northfield, NJ.

Leslie Kantor, PhD, MPH. Planned Parenthood. Maplewood, NJ.

Mike Alexander, MD. The George Washington University. Little Egg Harbor, NJ.

Bridget Aequola, MPH, MA. New Mexico State University. Las Cruces, NM.

Dakotah Jim, MS. NB3 Foundation. Albuquerque, NM.

Simone Duran, BS. NB3 Foundation. Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.

John Packham, PhD. University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine. Reno, NV.

Amy Shaver, MPH. University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions. Buffalo, NY.

Bao Ying Lin-Chen, MPH. Interfaith Medical Center. Brooklyn, NY.

Barbara Berney, PhD, MPH. City University of New York School of Public Health. New York City, NY.

Brooke Watson, MSc. EcoHealth Alliance. New York, NY.

Cheryl Archbald, MD MPH. Montefiore Medical Center. New Rochelle, NY.

Cheryl Merzel, DrPH, MPH. New York University. New York, NY.

Elisa Petkova, MD. Earth Renaissance. New York City, NY.

Emily Marte, BS. George Washington University. New York, NY.

Gen Meredith, MPH. Cornell University. Ithaca, NY.

Gladys Johnson, MPH. COPE Health Solutions. New York City, NY.

Heather Krasna, MS. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. New York City, NY.

Ikram Hussain, MPH. New York Medical College. Wappingers Falls, NY.

Irfan Hasan, MPA. The New York Community Trust. New York, NY.

Jodi Sutherland, PhD, RN. Binghamton University. Binghamton, NY.

Julia Burns, MPH. Mount Sinai School of Medicine. New York City, NY.

Kathleen Curtis, LPN. Clean and Healthy New York. Schenectady, NY.

Leidy Poveda, MBA. Montefiore Medical Center. Bronx, NY.

Linda Fried, MD. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. New York, NY.

Melissa Jacobson, MPH. Rockland County Department of Health. Pomona, NY.

Michael Crane, MD, MPH. Mount Sinai School of Medicine. New York City, NY.

Michael Garcia, MPH. Fund for Public Health in New York City. New York, NY.

Natasha Henry, MPH, CPHc. US EPA. Medford, NY.

Nodar Kipshidze, MPH. New York University Langone Health. New York, NY.

Nyloofar Norian, MD. Buffalo University. West Davenport, NY.

Su Park, PhD, MPH. New York University School of Medicine. New York City, NY.

Zachary Maggio, MSc. New York University College of Global Public Health. New York, NY.

Chester Stobinski, CHW. Northwest Ohio Hospital Council. Toledo, OH.

Donna Harris, MCHES. Retired Health Educator. Cincinnati, OH.

Endia Santee, PhD, MS. University of Cincinnati. Cincinnati, OH.

Layla Abraham, BS. University of Toledo. Toledo, OH.

Mallory Rinckey, MPH, CHES. University of Toledo. Toledo, OH.

Pallavi Oruganti, MPH. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH.

Traci Kinsler, JD. Marion County Public Health. Marion, OH.

Tyler Pigman, REHS. Marion County Public Health. Delaware, OH.

Hunter Meyers, MPHc. Oral Roberts University. Tulsa, OK.

Martin Donohoe, MD. Public Health and Social Justice dot org. Lake Oswego, OR.

Cris Chan, MPH. CJC Consulting Group. Pittsburgh, PA.

Daniel Rodriguez, PhD. La Salle University. Upper Black Eddy, PA.

Donna Bryant Winston, MSN, RN. St. Luke's University Health Network. Bethlehem, PA.

Erin Whaite, BS. University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA.

Eva Chernoff, BS. University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Pittsburgh, PA.

Katie Smith, BSN, RN. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA.

Kusuma Schofield, MSED, MPH. Drexel University. Philadelphia, PA.

Lauren Brennan, NM. Philadelphia WIC Program. Philadelphia, PA.

Mary Carty, MS. Drexel University. Philadelphia, PA.

Natasha Bagwe, MD, MPH. Physicians for Social Responsibility. Philadelphia, PA.

Philip Dahlin, MPH. Johnson & Johnson. New Hope, PA.

Ruthy Watson, PhD, MSPH. St. Joseph's University. Philadelphia, PA.

Scott Markind, RD, LDN. Philadelphia WIC Program. Philadelphia, PA.

Sue McLain, MPH. Pennsylvania Department of Health. Harrisburg, PA.

Walter Tsou, MD, MPH. Philadelphia Physicians for Social Responsibility. Philadelphia, PA.

Christine McGrane, MS, RN. University of Rhode Island. Exeter, RI.

Linda Mendonca, RN, MSN, PHNA-BC. Rhode Island College. Providence, RI.

Robert Desrosiers, DNP. Family Nurse Practitioner. Warwick, RI.

Steven Cohen, DrPH, MPH. University of Rhode Island. Kingston, RI.

Aditi Srivastav, MPH. Children's Trust of South Carolina. Columbia, SC.

Brian Peterson, MD. University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville. Greenville, SC.

Chelsea Lynes, MSPH. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Columbia, SC.

Kristin Simpson, MSW MPA. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Columbia, SC.

Maria Zubizarreta, BS. University of South Carolina. Columbia, SC.

Ashleigh Drain, MSPH. BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. Chattanooga, TN.

Brittany Julius, BA. University of Memphis, School of Public Health. Memphis, TN.

Dustin Knight, MPH. BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. Chattanooga, TN.

Gregory Heath, DSc, MPH. University of Tennessee. Chattanooga, TN.

Lauren Kelly, MSPHc. Meharry Medical College. Nashville, TN.

Michelle Hammett, MPHc. University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Knoxville, TN.

Bethany Evans, MPH, CHES. Healthy Futures of Texas. San Antonio, TX.

Carol Davis, MSPH, CPH. Health Department. Round Rock, TX.

Christine Jovanovic, MPH, PhDc. University of Texas School of Public Health. Austin, TX.

Devin Bradberry, MPA. Houston Health Department. Houston, TX.

Fangjian Guo, MD, PhD. University of Texas Medical Branch. Galveston, TX.

Irene Ruminjo, RN, PhD. Veterans Administration. Harlingen, TX.

Kelly Serfling, MPH. Houston Health Department. Houston, TX.

Laura Esparza, MS. University of Texas Austin. Austin, TX.

Liesl Nydegger, PhD, MPH. University of Texas at Austin. Austin, TX.

Manuela Saenz, DMD. University of Alabama at Birmingham. Houston, TX.

Ming Li, MS. Texas A&M University. College Station, TX.

Moonju Lee, PhD, RN. University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. San Antonio, TX.

Nimi Princewill, MPHc. University of North Texas. Fort Worth, TX.

Nishchal Joshi, MPH. University of North Texas Health Science Center. Irving, TX.

Norma Gonzalez, MPH. Martinez Street Women's Center. San Antonio, TX.

Orji Okereke, MD. University of North Texas Health Science Center. Fort Worth, TX.

Shane Fernando, PhD, MS. University of Northern Texas Health Science Center. Fort Worth, TX.

Shenghui Wu, MD, PhD. University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. Laredo, TX.

Sherhonda Harper, RN. Medical Examiner's Office. Houston, TX.

Teresa Scannell, MBA, JD. Vizient, Inc. Irving, TX.

Thankam Sunil, PhD, MPH. University of Texas at San Antonio. San Antonio, TX.

Vishnu Nepal, MPH. Houston Health Department. Houston, TX.

Zaida Lopez, MPH. Houston Health Department. Katy, TX.

Anna Dillingham, MPH. Davis County Health Department. Salt Lake City, UT.

Hailey McCormick, MPA. University of Utah. Salt Lake City, UT.

Jason Leiker, PhD. Utah State University. Logan, UT.

Pam Lyon, MPH. University of Utah, Division of Public Health. Salt Lake City, UT.

Alvssa Wang, MPH. National Cancer Institute. Arlington, VA.

Ans Irfan, MD, MPH, CPH, FRSPH. The George Washington University. Fairfax Station, VA.

Giordana Morales, MPH. Liberty University. Lynchburg, VA.

Hannah Ming, BS, CHES. Virginia Commonwealth University. Dinwiddie, VA.

Kelley Dennings, MPHc. University of South Florida. Arlington, VA.

Leon Vinci, DHA. Health Promotion Consultants. Roanoke, VA.

Litta Paulson, MPHc. Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA.

Nancy Bell, MA. Virginia Department of Health. Rocky Mount, VA.

Nicole Nicksic, PhD, MPH. Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond, VA.

Romina Hennig, DVM, MPH. US Department of Agriculture. Alexandria, VA.

Samantha Whiteside, MPH. The Motley Fool. Alexandria, VA.

Tessa Englund, BS. Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, VA.

Alan Searle, MD. Retired Family Practitioner. Port Orchard, WA.

Alejandra Cabral, MPH. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Griffin Chatterley, MPHc. University of Iowa. Redmond, WA.

Karen Cowgill, PhD, MSc. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Marci Hardy, PhD. ADx Healthcare. Bellingham, WA.

Melinda Leggett, BSN, RN. University of Massachusetts Amherst. DuPont, WA.

Nicole Errett, PhD, MSPH. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

Shelley Wallace, MPH, RD. Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. Tacoma, WA.

Vananh Vuong, MPH, CPH. Washington State University. Seattle, WA.

Alison Gondik, MPHc. George Washington University. South Range, WI.

Anneke Mohr, MPH, MSW. Community Advocates. Milwaukee, WI.

Bethany Canales, MPH. Health Equity Coordinator. Milwaukee, WI.

Jennifer Woo, MPH. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee -Zilber School of Public Health. Milwaukee, WI.

Langston Verdin, BA. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Milwaukee, WI.

Lina Vera, MD. Industrial University of Santander. Madison, WI.

Susan Zahner, DrPH. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, WI.

Yvette Paulino, PhD, CPH. University of Guam. Mangilao, Guam.