



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2026**

For More Information, Please Contact:

Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, NYSACHO

Contact: 518-527-3547

## **New York State Association of County Health Officials Testify on Executive Budget; Emphasized Impact of Federal Uncertainty and Need for Strong State Investment in Local Public Health**

Albany, NY — Heidi Bond, President of the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) and Director of Public Health for Otsego County, testified today during the Joint Assembly and Senate Health Budget Hearing where she urged state lawmakers to strengthen investments in local public health and alerted committee members about ongoing public health disruptions caused by recent federal policy changes.

Speaking on behalf of NYSACHO, which represents county and city health departments across New York State, Ms. Bond emphasized that local health departments are the frontline of public health, protecting communities from disease, preventing injury, ensuring safe drinking water and safe housing, and delivering essential services to children and families.

“At a time when federal public health programming is increasingly unstable due to staffing losses, stop-work orders, and reduced reliable access to data, state leadership has never been more important,” Bond said. “Sustained state investment is critical to maintaining core public health capacity.”

### **Public Health Challenges**

Ms. Bond’s written testimony addressed several public health challenges, including federal workforce reductions, federal funding uncertainty, federal stop-work orders impacting key health and workforce programs, the spread of health misinformation, and the loss of timely and reliable national health data on immunizations, health equity and overdoses.

### **NYSACHO Budget Priorities**

Ms. Bond’s testimony also emphasized key NYSACHO priorities for the 2026-27 state budget, including:

- Restoration of funding for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, a proven, prevention-focused initiative that improves housing safety, reduces injuries, and helps reduce asthma-related illness.
- Extension of the Early Intervention Program (EIP) Covered Lives assessment sunset, and addressing inequities in the intended 50–50 state–county cost share, which is essential to sustaining services for children with developmental delays and their families.



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS**

- Restoration of funding for tick-borne disease prevention, health promotion campaigns, Nurse-Family Partnership, school health centers, and family planning programs, among others.

Bond concluded by calling on state leaders to reaffirm New York's long-standing commitment to evidence-based public health.

“These are not new programs or expansions,” she said. “They are practical, prevention-focused investments that stabilize systems already in place and protect New Yorkers where it matters most, at home and in early childhood.”

To view NYSACHO's written testimony, please visit: <https://nysacho.org/topic/testimony/>

###