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For Immediate Release:

**ASPHE URGES CONGRESS TO OVERRIDE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VETO OF THE FY 2008
LABOR, HHS, AND EDUCATION SPENDING BILL**

Washington, D.C., November 14, 2007

Harrison Spencer, M.D., MPH, president and chief executive officer of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), issued the following statement regarding President Bush's veto yesterday of the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

"On behalf of the 40 accredited schools of public health, ASPH deeply regrets the decision of President Bush to veto an appropriations bill that takes a modest step to reverse the trend of eroding investments in critical public health programs that protect our nation from threats ranging from emerging infectious diseases to terrorist attacks.

The bipartisan conference agreement on this appropriations bill that the President has rejected would have restored cuts that his Administration proposed in the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration. Collectively these programs that support public health research, training and education are the underpinnings of the invisible infrastructure that our country relies upon to keep its families and communities healthy in their every day lives.

By vetoing this legislation, we now face the potential elimination of effective public health research and training programs at the very time when we face a critical shortage of trained public health professionals to meet the challenges of our day such as a pandemic influenza outbreak.

Beyond the needed investments in public health, ASPH strongly supports the funding that this vetoed legislation provides in elementary and secondary education, higher education, biomedical research, social services and job training. ASPH recognizes that all of these investments are necessary to ensure a healthy population and maintain our nation's global economic competitiveness.

ASPH strongly urges the Congress to vote to override the President's veto."

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The Association of Schools of Public Health represents the 40 CEPH accredited schools of public health in North America. Accredited schools train the majority of public health professionals. These schools have a combined faculty of over **7,500** and educate more than 19,000 students annually from every state in the U.S. and most countries throughout the world. The schools graduate approximately 7,000 professionals each year. Additional information about the ASPH is available at www.asph.org.