Making the Case for Health in All Priorities:

Sample Talking Points by Topic Area

Education

- More years of high-quality education are linked to better life-long health and healthier lifestyles, which can lower state health care costs.
- Schools can lay the foundations for a healthy life.
- Health is critical for learning and success.

Jobs

- A healthy workforce supports a thriving economy. By investing in healthy workplaces and communities, employers can lower health care costs, improve safety, improve worker productivity, and retain a high preforming workforce.
- People who are healthy are more likely to be able to find and hold jobs.

Opioids

- Opioid misuse, overdose, and deaths are preventable, yet more than 115 people die daily nationwide from overdosing.
- The opioid epidemic has social and financial implications for states, including spending on health care, social services, education, and criminal justice.
- Proven ways to prevent opioid overdose deaths include improving opioid prescribing, reducing exposure to opioids, preventing misuse, and treating opioid use disorder.

State Budget

- Governors can ensure all agencies row in the same direction to help all residents live healthy, safe, and productive lives.
- People who are healthy are more likely to be able to find and hold jobs and pay state taxes.
- Helping people become and stay healthy can save state Medicaid programs money and stabilize commercial premiums.

Tax Policy

- State earned-income tax credits help improve the health of working people and their children, and help single mothers to return to work.
- States can hold nonprofit hospitals accountable for their tax exemptions by requiring them to invest in meaningful community health improvement projects.
- States can tax unhealthy behaviors, such as tobacco .
- State taxes can incentivize cleaner air, energy efficiency, and other health-related policies.

Infant Mortality

- Newborns' health is influenced by their families' social and economic conditions. Medical care alone will not solve the problem of infant mortality.

- Some babies are [twice] as likely to die as other babies based solely on their race. State policies can help keep all babies alive.
- States can promote evidence-based, low-tech interventions to address the leading causes of infant mortality.

Housing

- It is difficult to improve health and control health costs when people do not have a safe, stable place to live.
- A safe place to sleep, and to store and prepare food, helps people stay healthy.
- Housing and supportive services [can] reduce avoidable hospital visits, control costs, and improve health for people experiencing homelessness.
- Supportive housing [helps] vulnerable families stay together and helps students stay in school.
- Keeping homes free of lead, mold, and pests can help people stay healthy and avoid costly emergency room visits.

Transportation

- Reliable transportation is important for physical health and a thriving local economy. For example, it [helps] people work, visit the doctor, and shop for groceries.
- Safe places to walk and bike promote exercise and active living, which can help prevent and control costly chronic conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.
- Low-emissions vehicles and public transit can improve air quality to help people breathe easier.

Emergency Preparedness Policy

- Storms, wildfires, and drought caused loss of life and [billions] of dollars in damage in 2018.
- Tick- and mosquito-borne illnesses have [tripled] due to factors including [changing climate], and vaccine-preventable diseases are [re-emerging.]
- National health security depends on a robust public infrastructure that can help keep an emergency from becoming a disaster.
- Clear, credible, and consistent information from state leaders can help calm a restive public during a crisis.