**Dr. Steven Stack Tapped as President-Elect of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials**

Sept. 14, 2022 – Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, has been named president-elect by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Stack will assume responsibilities of the organization in 2023.

He was appointed as commissioner of the Department for Public Health by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear in February 2020. Stack’s immediate focus as commissioner was on transforming public health in Kentucky. Weeks later, a public health emergency was declared when the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the commonwealth. He became a known and trusted presence, joining the Governor at pandemic press conferences that occurred daily during the early days of the pandemic, continuing to steer public health upon delivery of the first vaccines and for the months that have followed, while sustaining a spectrum of responsibilities that include addressing chronic conditions, shaping health behaviors, maternal health, childhood vaccinations and more.

Stack has visited all 61 local and district health departments across the state, building on a message of transformation, collaboration, health care delivery and optimized operations.

He is a board-certified emergency physician with more than 20 years of emergency medicine clinical practice and emergency department management experience.

Throughout his career, he has served in numerous medical professional association leadership roles. In 2006, he was the first board certified emergency physician ever elected to the American Medical Association (AMA) Board of Trustees and in 2015 he served as AMA President. He was named secretary-treasurer of ASTHO in the fall of 2020. Last month, Stack was recognized for his leadership from the Kentucky Medical Association.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Stack graduated magna cum laude in classical studies from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. He completed his medical education and emergency medicine residency at the Ohio State University and his Master of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee Haslam College of Business.

“Having Commissioner Stack involved in ASTHO leadership is a true honor for the Department for Public Health, as well as for the entire commonwealth of Kentucky,” said Kelly Alexander, chief of staff. “To my knowledge, this is the first time a Kentucky public health commissioner will be named president-elect of this nation-wide organization. Since 2020, Dr. Stack has played an active role in the ASTHO organization and the appointment to president-elect will ensure public health concerns from our state and situational awareness of key issues are brought to the table. Dr. Stack is a tireless advocate for our department, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and of course, all citizens throughout Kentucky. I know Dr. Stack will make Kentucky proud as I look forward to seeing more of his accomplishments and leadership in this new role.”

“The Department for Public Health is proud to recognize the election of Dr. Stack by his peers to serve in this leadership role,” said Dr. Connie White, deputy commissioner for clinical affairs. “Their vote is a recognition of his abilities to evaluate and manage multiple complex issues and help bring consensus to a large diverse group. As the first ASTHO president-elect from Kentucky, Dr. Stack has shown his ability to blend his past experiences – clinical, administrative and organized medicine/AMA president - into the skill set needed to lead this important public health organization.”

ASTHO’s membership is comprised of 59 chief health officials from each of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., five U.S. territories and three Freely Associated States. ASTHO also supports peer communities of state and territorial health leaders and senior executives in health departments who work with the over 100,000 public health professionals employed at state and territorial public health agencies.