May 21, 2018

Gia Mudd-Martin, PhD, MPH, RN

Associate Professor, College of Nursing

751 Rose Street, College of Nursing Bldg., Office 533

University of Kentucky

Lexington, KY 40536-0232

 Dear Dr. Mudd-Martin,

As the Superintendent of Breathitt County Schools, I am very concerned about the health of our children and families in Appalachia. Given the high rates of heart and lung disease in our communities and the underlying risk factors that begin in childhood, I am highly supportive of your study, *Home and Environment in the Appalachian Region: Trends in Health (HEARTH)*. The potential for this research to identify socioeconomic, biological and environmental factors that influence heart and lung health in our children is excellent and I am glad to have this opportunity to support the collaboration between University of Kentucky, University of Cincinnati, and West Virginia University in this effort.

On behalf of this effort, I will gladly support the HEARTH team to access the schools in our county in order to recruit children and their parents. I am especially supportive of the approach your University of Kentucky team will take to integrate the research as a learning experience for the children and their parents. Collaborating with the schools will significantly increase the likelihood of success of the research.

I fully support this research application. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Phillip Watts

Superintendent