

2 February 2021

Honourable Mr. Juanma Moreno
Presidente de la Junta de Andalucía

RE: ADDITIONAL REQUEST TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED PLAN TO CLOSE THE ANDALUSIAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Sir:

I am writing, once again, on behalf of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) to ask for your reconsideration regarding the bill proposing the dissolution of the Andalusian School of Public Health (ASPH). The WFPHA initially put forward this request to the Parliament of Andalusia exactly one year ago. The numerous initiatives of support from national and international institutions as well as the pandemic prevented the motion from moving forward. Now the Popular Group has reactivated this bill at a critical time in our history, one which relies on the existence of strong public health institutions to offer leadership as we combat COVID-19.

The absorption of the ASPH into the newer Institute of Health of Andalusia could have unintended consequences. Health research cannot be limited to clinical studies; rather, public health schools are uniquely qualified to develop policies and implement strategies to improve population health and prevent disease. Moreover, those institutions are critical to train and support the next generation of public health leaders.

On an international scale, the ASPH has immense prestige, with particular influence in Latin America. The need for global unification is at an all-time high, reaffirming the importance of sustaining institutions that promote equity and improved health in other regions of the world. As a collaborating centre of the World Health Organization, the ASPH is clearly valued by the broader public health community.

Overall, we believe that this highly distinguished institution must remain autonomous to help promote the health of the Andalusian people and to advance the practice of public health.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Walter Ricciardi
President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations

Cc Mr. Jesús Aguirre Muñoz - Regional Ministry of Health and Family

Mr. José María de Torres Medina - Directorate of Public Health and Pharmaceutical Planning