



August 25, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 240 (Rodriguez): Local health department workforce assessment
Enrolled August 24, 2022 – **REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), and Public Health Advocates respectfully request the Governor's signature for AB 240 (Rodriguez), which would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct an evaluation of the adequacy of local health department infrastructure, including an assessment of future staffing, workforce, and resource needs.

Local health departments play a critical role in the protection and promotion of the health and well-being of California's communities and residents. As noted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a well-trained public health workforce is our first line of defense to prevent disease, protect health, and keep people safe. This vital role has been most evident amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other local and state emergencies including public safety power shutoffs, wildfires, and communicable disease outbreaks. With the emergence of the MPX outbreak, local health departments are actively engaged in efforts to effectively

respond to communities impacted and to prevent transmission of the virus. The proclamation of a state of emergency for the monkeypox outbreak further confirms the urgent need to evaluate the local health department infrastructure and workforce needs to perform daily activities to provide services to our diverse communities and to effectively respond during an emergency.

The Future Public Health Work Group was a collaborative effort to issue a memo to serve as an initial assessment highlighting six foundational governmental public health services and estimated a needed increase in California's public health expenditure by 20 to 23 percent. While this work serves as a great starting point, a more detailed and comprehensive evaluation as required by AB 240 will determine appropriate infrastructure (e.g., technology, capabilities, services) and workforce (e.g., positions, training, pipeline programs) for the communities served. Among the report details we are most eager to evaluate is our public health laboratory capacity in California and whether it is adequate to ensure an effective and timely response to emerging threats.

California needs a clear assessment of the state's public health infrastructure and workforce to save lives and better prepare for future emergencies. The findings and recommendations produced by this report required by AB 240 will serve as an important roadmap to guide investments to sufficiently resource local health department workforce and services to protect California against public health threats.

The Department of Finance estimated the total cost of this bill is \$3.3 million over the next three years. While we understand the funding was not allocated in the budget to complete an evaluation, the bill is clear that other funding sources can be used to support this effort. As bill sponsors, we welcome the opportunity to work with the Administration to find sufficient funding, including funding from federal or private sources. We are hopeful that the modest funds needed to support this investment will prepare our state well to make the most strategic public health investments in the future and take advantage of future federal public health funding.

It is for these reasons CHEAC, HOAC, SEIU California, CSAC, UCC, RCRC, and Public Health Advocates support AB 240 and respectfully request your signature on the measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Gibbons with CHEAC at mgibbons@cheac.org or (916) 327-7540.

Respectfully,



Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California



Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California



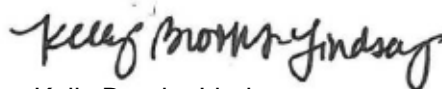
Beth Malinowski
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Jolie Onodera
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Sarah Dukett
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Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
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cc: Tam Ma, Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Samantha Lui, Deputy Secretary Legislative Affairs, California Health and Human
Services Agency
Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department
of Public Health (CDPH)