



August 1, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 262 (Holden): Children's camps: safety and regulation
As Amended April 18, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing August 14, 2023 – Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), and the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), we write in SUPPORT of AB 262, authored by Assembly Member Chris Holden, which would direct the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to establish a statewide workgroup to develop recommendations and a report to the Legislature pertaining to child safety at children's camps.

Previous legislative proposals relating to children's camps have inappropriately assigned responsibility to local health departments (LHDs) – which exist to protect communities from public health threats, like COVID-19 – to regulate child supervision and safety at children's camps. CHEAC has long advocated that children's camps in California should be regulated by an agency with the applicable training and expertise in child supervision and safety.

AB 262 sets out a process, led by CDSS, to engage with other relevant state agencies, such as the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education, as well as stakeholders such as children's camps representatives, parent advocate groups, and local public health and environmental health departments, to gather information and develop recommendations to establish child supervision requirements, physical facility standards, and camp licensure and regulatory requirements, among others. This process will identify the appropriate agencies and/or entities, with applicable expertise, to ensure children's safety and supervision when attending these day camps.

CDSS is well suited to lead this process given their expertise in regulating facilities that provide care to children, including childcare facilities and children's residential care facilities.

Our organizations believe ensuring children's safety while attending day camps is paramount and that it is vital for an entity with appropriate expertise to oversee their operation. AB 262 is the first step towards achieving that goal. For the above reasons, the undersigned representatives of our organizations strongly SUPPORT AB 262.

Thank you,



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
(CSAC)



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Urban Counties of California (UCC)



Sarah Dukett
Legislative Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
(RCRC)



Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California (CHEAC)



Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California
(HOAC)

cc: The Honorable Chris Holden, Member, California State Assembly
The Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus