



September 14, 2023

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

**Re: AB 1057 (Weber): California Home Visiting Program
As Amended September 1, 2023 – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to request your signature on AB 1057 by Assembly Member Weber. This bill seeks to give additional flexibility to local health jurisdictions to administer more Home Visiting Programs that address the unique needs of their communities and provide support to families who need it most.

The California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) is designed to be a preventative intervention by focusing on positive parenting and child development for families who are at risk for adverse childhood experiences such as neglect, abuse, child maltreatment, mental health related issues, or other potentially traumatic experiences. California utilizes the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) and recent general fund investments to operate the program. There are currently 20 evidence-based home visiting models that meet the federal MIECHV requirements. Currently, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) limits local health jurisdictions to three models.

Many families need more support as a result of enduring the COVID-19 pandemic, as mental health supports have been limited in the existing home visiting program. Maternal mental health disorders (MMHDs) are the most common complication during the perinatal period, which often goes both undetected and untreated. MMHDs are even more prevalent for birthing people of color with rates that are often as high as 20 percent for African American and Latino women, attributed to a lack of awareness and stigma of

mental health issues within their respective communities, higher levels of stress and other factors. While new mandates require pregnant and postpartum people to be screened for MMHDs, the CHVP is uniquely positioned to support parents and children who may not otherwise engage in care as part of the home visit.

AB 1057 will accomplish three objectives: it will require CDPH to add at least one new evidence-based model by January 1, 2025. It will also permit local health departments the opportunity to supplement home visiting with mental health supports and training. Lastly, local health jurisdictions will have the opportunity to submit an alternative home visiting model to CDPH for approval that prioritizes the unique needs of individuals in that jurisdiction.

For these reasons, CSAC, UCC and RCRC respectfully request your signature on AB 1057. Should you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact our organizations.

Respectfully,



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cc: The Honorable Akilah Weber
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor