



June 28, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1057 (Weber): California Home Visiting Program
As Amended June 26, 2023 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing July 3, 2023**

Dear Chair Portantino:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write in support of AB 1057 by Assembly Member Weber. This measure 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 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 allow local health departments the flexibility to use any other federally approved home visiting model. 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 public health nursing model that prioritizes the unique needs of individuals in that jurisdiction.

It is for these reasons that UCC, RCRC, and CSAC support AB 1057 and respectfully request your AYE vote. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, UCC Legislative Advocate at kbl@hbeadvocacy.com, Sarah Dukett, RCRC Legislative Advocate at sdukett@rcrcnet.org, and Jolie Onodera, CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate at jonodera@counties.org.

Sincerely,



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cc: The Honorable Dr. Akilah Weber, Member, California State Assembly
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