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April 19, 2017

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH  
Director and State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health  
1615 Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

**Re: AB 1520 (Burke et al.): Lifting Children & Families Out of Poverty Act of 2017 (Support)**

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on April, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on AB 1520 (Burke et al.), a bill that codifies the intent of the Legislature to move toward reducing child poverty in this state by 50 percent over a 20-year period. This bill recognizes that one in five children in California lives under the federal poverty level and that the rates of poverty are even higher for African American and Latino youth. AB 1520 states that the Legislature should invest in programs and services that can help achieve the goal of reducing child poverty.

Numerous studies show that poverty and poor health are intimately linked. Large health disparities exist between the rich and the poor. Economic insecurity has strong negative influences on overall health and stresses in early childhood can have long-term consequences. CCLHO supports the intent to fund cost-effective programs and services proven to reduce child poverty in California as well as exploring innovative solutions to achieve similar outcomes.

As you are aware, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

This position of support for lifting children and families out of poverty is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of taking a leadership role in the practice of public health and policy development. It is further consistent with the legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect the health of vulnerable populations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us) or at 530-265-7154.

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

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