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June 24, 2015

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Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue, Suite 73.720
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RE: AB 1076 (Mays): Food Facilities: Snack Bars – Oppose

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board voted to take an oppose recommendation for AB 1076 (Mays). This bill would exempt from the definition of a food facility a snack bar operated by an organization that runs a youth sports league or team if the sale or distribution of food is limited to prepackaged, labeled, non-potentially hazardous food, including, but not limited to, candy, chips, prepackaged cookies, and canned beverages, and to limited food preparation or handling of unpackaged foods, including popcorn, cookies, snow cones, churros, doughnuts, nachos, hot dogs, chili, coffee, or hot chocolate. CCLHO recommends the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to also oppose AB 1076.

Protecting the health and safety of consumers from food borne illness is an essential responsibility of state and local public health. California Retail Food Code establishes standards for retail food facilities that provide or sell food to the general public. This regulatory oversight assures the general public that such facilities have met strict health and sanitation standards and that the risk of acquiring a food borne illness at such facilities is low. The Code also provides exemptions for certain facilities such as churches and private clubs that provide or sell food solely to their members or guests and not to the general public.

CCLHO is concerned that this bill will allow youth sports league or team organizations to provide and sell food to the general population in a manner that is unregulated. Consumers eating unpackaged food prepared and handled by these organizations would experience greater exposure to food borne pathogens which will result in a risk of food borne illness that is higher than the risk associated with regulated food facilities. This increased risk is unacceptable.

Considering the prevalence of youth sports leagues and teams among our communities, CCLHO believes that many Californians would be at increased risk of food borne illness at some point in their lives as a result of this bill.

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director
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As you know, CCLHO is an organization of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions established in statute in 1947 to consult with, advise, and make recommendations to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions and officials of federal, state, and local government, the Legislature, and any other organization or association on matters affecting health.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please contact me at Muntu.davis@acgov.org or 510-267-8010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Muntu Davis MD, MPH". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers