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Executive Administrator

June 2, 2015

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California Department of Public Health  
1615 Capitol Avenue, Suite 73.720  
PO Box 997377, MS 0500  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

**RE: *AB 1207 (Lopez): Mandated Child Abuse Reporting: Day Care Licensee Training – Support***

Dear Dr. Smith:

The CCLHO Board voted to take a support recommendation for AB 1207 (Lopez), a bill that would better equip child care workers to identify and report instances of child abuse, and urges the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to also support this legislation.

AB 1207 would amend the Health and Safety Code and Penal Code to require, as a condition of licensure and in addition to any other required training, that at least one director or teacher at each day care center, and each family day care home licensee who provides care, have at least 15 hours of health and safety training, covering specified components including identification and reporting of signs and symptoms of child abuse.

By requiring training for established mandated child abuse reporters, this bill would increase the accuracy and completeness of care providers' detection and reporting of suspected child abuse. Child abuse is a well-recognized Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and as such is correlated with poorer health outcomes across the life course. Full and accurate detection and reporting of suspected child abuse facilitates early intervention, providing the opportunity to improve lifetime health status.

This bill is consistent with CCLHO's Criteria for Priority Legislation in that it is population-based with specific impact on the vulnerable population of young children in child care. The scientific support for the impact of ACEs across the life course is well-established, and the professional expertise of physician health officers in support of this policy sends a strong message that this is a public health concern. In an era of persistent health inequities, it is important that local health officers and state health officials actively support policies which intervene early and effectively to address those inequities.

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director  
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As you know, the California Conference of Local Health Officers (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](mailto:Muntu.davis@acgov.org) or 510-267-8010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Muntu Davis MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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