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Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500
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Re: AB 1219 (Eggman): Food Donations (Support)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Conference Business Meeting on May 3, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on AB 1219 (Eggman), a bill that would expand the existing provisions within California statutes relating to civil immunities and liabilities of entities that donate food fit for human consumption.

CCLHO recognizes that food that is otherwise fit for human consumption is disposed of for multiple reasons, including sell by dates, expiration dates, liability, and state law that limits who can donate and to whom. This bill would expand the group of organizations that can legally donate under limited liability, and expands the groups that can accept the donations. The California Association of Food Banks estimates that over 2 million children in California experience food insecurity. CCLHO supports the efforts incorporated into AB 1219 that would increase the availability of food to vulnerable populations.

As you know, 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 AB 1219 and its intent to increase the availability of food to vulnerable populations is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of promoting and protecting health and well-being through a focus on targeted outcomes for all people, and its legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect specific vulnerable populations.

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

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

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