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May 15, 2017

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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 1277 (Daly) Dentistry: Dental Board of California Regulations (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 1277 (Daly), a bill that would require the Dental Board of California (DBC) to amend its current regulations on the minimum standards for infection control to include the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for procedural water quality.

CCLHO supports AB 1277 and the proposed changes in current regulations to prevent *Mycobacterium abscessus* (*M. abscessus*) infections, such as those experienced by children who had pulpotomy procedures at a pediatric dental facility in Orange County in 2016. This dental office was subsequently temporarily closed as a result of the positive laboratory results for *Mycobacterium* in the dental office's internal water system. Prior to closure, at least 22 confirmed and 46 probable cases of infection occurred in children that received dental procedures with contaminated water.

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 is consistent with CCLHO's legislative priority of providing recommendations on issues based on science with an opportunity for the professional expertise of health officers. AB 1277 also aligns with CCLHO's strategic priority to provide advice and scientific expertise on public health matters.

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

cc: Dean R. Grafilo, Director, Dental Board of California