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RE: AB 1546 (Olsen): Vital Records (Support)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on April 13, 2016 to take a Support recommendation on AB 1546 (Olsen), a bill that would authorize the State Registrar within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to suspend the use of any security feature if necessary to enable the State Registrar, local registrar, county recorder, or county clerk to supply an applicant with a certified copy of a birth, death, or marriage record. In addition, AB 1546 would require the State Registrar to study all security features for paper used to print a vital record, or alternative security features that are equal to or better than those that are currently mandated.

AB 1546 is in response to the recent significant, statewide shortage of approved Bank Note paper in California that impacted CDPH and local jurisdictions with respect to providing certified birth, death and marriage records. Enabling the State Registrar to study alternate security features and suspend the use of any particular security feature if necessary would help prevent future Bank Note shortages.

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 AB 1546 is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of taking a leadership role in the practice of public health and policy development. If you have any questions, please contact me at jberreman@ci.berkeley.ca.us or at 510-981-5301. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Dr. Janet Berreman

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers