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April 18, 2018

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

Re: AB 1754 (McCarty): Pre-K for All Act of 2018 (Support)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on April 5, 2018 to take a Support recommendation on AB 1754 (McCarty), a bill that would require the state to provide all 4-year-old children who meet one of several eligibility requirements, including income eligibility, with access to early care and education programs.

Existing law requires the California Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer child care and development programs that offer a full range of services to eligible children from infancy to 13 years of age. These programs include part-day age and developmentally appropriate programs for 3- and 4-year-old children. Quality early learning and care for children from infancy to five years is a sound and strategic investment to narrow achievement gaps that are present well before kindergarten. In addition, evidence shows that expanding pre-K helps with later academic performance and is supported by the First Five Commission.

An analysis* by the National Bureau of Economic Research of the impacts of New York City's Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Program on the health of low-income children showed that the introduction of UPK increased the probability that a child's asthma was diagnosed and accelerated the timing of vision problem diagnoses. Identifying and treating these conditions early can improve outcomes.

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, commissions, and 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.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 530-265-715 or by email at ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

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

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

**Seeing and Hearing: The Impacts of New York City's Universal Prekindergarten Program on the Health of Low-Income Children*
Kai Hong, Kacie Dragan, Sherry Glied
NBER Working Paper No. 23297
Issued in March 2017