



1615 Capitol Ave., Suite 73.771  
P.O. Box 997377, MS 7003  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

**PHONE:** 916.440.7594  
**FAX:** 916.440.7595  
<http://www.cclho.org>

**Leah Northrop, MPA, MAIS**  
Executive Administrator  
[Leah.Northrop@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Leah.Northrop@cdph.ca.gov)

#### **Officers**

Kenneth Cutler, MD, MPH  
President  
Nevada County

Robert Oldham, MD, MSHA  
President-Elect  
Placer County

Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH  
Treasurer  
Los Angeles County

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS  
Secretary  
Sacramento County

Lou Anne Cummings, MD, MPH  
Legislative Coordinator  
Sutter County

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH  
Regulations Coordinator  
Marin County

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH  
Past President  
Alameda County

#### **Directors-at-Large**

Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH  
Riverside County

Andrew Miller, MD  
Butte County

Edward Moreno, MD, MPH  
Monterey County

Maxwell Ohikhuare, MD  
San Bernardino County

Nichole Quick, MD, MPH  
Yuba County

Karen Relucio, MD  
Napa County

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH  
Stanislaus County

Nancy Williams, MD, MPH  
El Dorado County

May 25, 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 1780 (Maienschein): Importation of Diseased Dogs and Cats (Support If Amended)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Business Meeting on May 9, 2018 to recommend a Support If Amended position on AB 1780 (Maienschein), a bill that would require the State Public Health Officer to investigate certain reports of communicable disease outbreaks caused by contact with a dog or cat. The bill also authorizes the state public health officer to issue an order prohibiting importation, if the investigation identifies an outbreak risk. While CDPH has broad authority to ban importation of diseased animals, AB 1780 would broaden this authority to investigate outbreaks outside of California and make decisions based on those investigations.

CCLHO recommends a support position on AB 1780 if the bill is amended to include sufficient financial resources for state and local health departments to conduct investigations related to the importation of dogs and cats. Currently, most local health departments have limited resources to investigate outbreaks, and most do not currently employ public health veterinarians. Providing state and local health departments with the fiscal support for additional resources necessary to control animal diseases would be beneficial for current disease control & prevention efforts. CCLHO members also voiced concern for enforcement resources required by the bill and the ability of CDPH to investigate outbreaks outside of its state jurisdiction.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now 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 530-265-7154 or by email at [ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us).

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