



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

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June 20, 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 1790 (Salas): Valley Fever Education Early Diagnosis, and Treatment Act
(Oppose Unless Amended)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO June Board Meeting on June 7, 2018 to recommend an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 1790 (Salas). This bill would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and local public health officers to make available protocols and guidelines for educating physicians and other health care providers, regarding the most recent scientific and medical information on Valley Fever etiology, transmission, diagnosis, surveillance, and treatment. AB 1790 would also require primary care clinics and general acute care hospitals to develop, adopt, and implement a written policy and procedure regarding required reporting to the local health officer.

While CCLHO agrees with the intent of AB 1790 to raise awareness of the symptoms, test, and treatments for Valley Fever, CCLHO recommends an Oppose Unless Amended position on the bill, contingent on the following amendments:

- In section 122477, replace the reference that CDPH “and local public health officers shall work together to make available protocols and guidelines...” to state that CDPH “shall consult with the California Conference of Local Health Officers” to make available...” This amendment will facilitate the process by which the local health officers provide consultation and advice to CDPH through CCLHO.
- Delete section 122478, as health care providers must already report Valley Fever cases, as outlined in the reporting requirements in place through Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations. CCLHO recommends against highlighting one reportable disease in statute and finds this section redundant and unnecessary.

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.

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