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May 25, 2018

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
1430 N Street, Suite 5602
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

RE: AB 2271 (Quirk-Silva): School Food Authorities: Federal Equipment Assistance Grants: Matching State Grants (Support)

Dear Superintendent Torlakson:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Business Meeting on May 9, 2018 to recommend a Support position on AB 2271 (Quirk-Silva). This bill would require the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in a matching state grant to a school food authority (SFA) participating in the federal National School Lunch Program awarded a federal equipment assistance grant.

CCLHO recommends a support position on AB 2271 as the bill would help address the lack of equipment and infrastructure in many schools that inhibits their ability to serve healthy, nutritious meals to schoolchildren. The bill also requires a competitive grant process to award funds to SFA's, with priority given to high need schools located in underserved areas, with limited resources and/or aging food service equipment, where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. AB 2271 would assist high need schools with ensuring that all students can learn, grow and thrive, and their learning is not compromised by hunger.

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

cc: Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health