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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 2601 (Weber): Pupil Instruction: Sexual Health Education: Charter Schools (Support)

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 position on AB 2601 (Weber), a bill that would extend the requirements of the California Healthy Youth Act to include charter schools.

When the California Healthy Youth Act (Act) passed, it applied to students in grades 7-12 in school districts defined as, "county boards of education, county superintendents of schools, the California School for the Deaf, and the California School for the Blind." However, the Act did *not* previously include charter schools. AB 2601 proposes to add charter schools to the Act's requirements.

Comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education has been shown to be effective in both delaying sexual activity and increasing condom and contraceptive use among youth who are already sexually active. Requiring sexual health and HIV prevention education in all public schools would establish minimum educational requirements for all publicly schooled students in grades 7-12, including those in charter schools that may not have access to this education elsewhere. This standardized education is important as the number of California charter school students continues to grow, evident by the increase of 5.88 percent between 2013 and 2015. Furthermore, STD & HIV prevention, as well as unintended pregnancy prevention, are key components of public health.

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