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May 14, 2019

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 294 (Rodriguez): Correctional Facilities: Gassing (NOT FINISHED)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on May 1, 2019 to take an Oppose unless amended recommendation on AB 294 (Rodriguez), a bill that under current law authorizes a chief medical officer of a local detention facility or state prison, or a designee, upon probable cause to believe gassing has occurred, and if it is deemed medically necessary to protect the officer or employee who was subject to the gassing, to order the inmate to receive an examination or test for hepatitis, tuberculosis, or both, as specified. The bill would require the warden of a state prison facility and the county sheriff or administrator of a county jail to post a legible notice in an easily visible location to officers and employees of the facility or jail that describes the rights of a victim of the aggravated battery at their respective facilities, and to provide physical notice of those rights to each victim of an aggravated battery. The bill would also require a state prison facility and a county jail to make protective gear, such as clothing, goggles, and shields, readily available to staff.

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 email at roidham@placer.ca.gov or by phone at (530) 745-3121. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers