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**RE: AB 376 (Lopez): CalWORKs Eligibility: Immunizations (Support if Amended)**

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board of Directors voted to recommend a position of support if amended for AB 376 (Lopez), a bill which requires applicants or recipients to provide documentation of immunizations if the county welfare offices cannot verify that the immunizations were performed by reviewing the California Immunization Registry (CAIR). CCLHO supports AB 376 if the bill is amended to delete references to personal belief exemptions, which are no longer valid due to the passage of SB 277 earlier this year.

Further, the policy change resulting from AB 376 would streamline the verification process by county welfare offices and assist families applying for assistance through the CalWORKs program. The County Welfare Directors Association is a sponsor of AB 376.

In 1998, California passed legislation requiring every CalWORKs family with a child of less than 6 years of age to provide proof of immunization within 30 days of receiving CalWORKs benefits. Some families are not able to meet the deadline, resulting in additional follow-up which can add administrative costs for the county welfare offices and can increase the transportation costs for families to retrieve and return with the required documentation of immunizations. In some instances, families may not have the records, which may have been lost.

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) is an organization of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions established in statute in 1947 to consult with, advise, and make recommendations to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions and officials of federal, state, and local government, the Legislature, and any other organization or association on matters affecting health

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please contact me at [Muntu.davis@acgov.org](mailto:Muntu.davis@acgov.org) or 510-267-8010.

Sincerely,

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers