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June 20, 2018

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Executive Officer
California Board of Registered Nursing
1747 North Market Boulevard, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834

RE: SB 1480 (Hill): Professions and Vocations (Public Health Nursing Fees); Support if Amended

Dear Dr. Morris:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO June Board Meeting on June 7, 2018 to recommend a Support if Amended position on SB 1480 (Hill). CCLHO recommends a support position on SB 1480 if the bill is amended to reduce the fees required for the BRN to evaluate the Public Health Nursing credential down to its original levels of \$75 to \$150, the fee amounts that existed prior to the passage of SB 1039 in 2016.

CCLHO is concerned that the higher fees, even with the reductions outlined in SB 1480, would further contribute to the difficulties in filling Public Health nursing positions many local health jurisdictions currently experience. Furthermore, Public Health nurses traditionally work in the public sector, with lower salaries than generally experienced by nurses in the private sector. CCLHO is concerned that the higher fees for Public Health Nurse certification and renewal may act as a disincentive for qualified nurses to apply for or maintain this certification, resulting in additional difficulties for local health jurisdictions to successfully recruit for and fill essential public health nurse positions.

CCLHO is also concerned that the Public Health Nurse certification fees were initially tied to the fee increases associated with licensure for Nurse Practitioners. CCLHO's recommends a reduction in the Public Health certification fees to reflect the difference between a certification and a licensure, such as for Nurse Practitioners.

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

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