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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  
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#### Re: SB 301 (Leyva): Medi-Cal: family planning services

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on May 1, 2019 to take a Support recommendation on SB 301 (Leyva), a bill that under current law, the Medi-Cal program which is administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), pursuant to a federal waiver, administers the Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (Family PACT) Program, to provide comprehensive clinical family planning services to any person who has a family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and who is eligible to receive those services. This bill would require the department, if there are any reductions in federal financial participation to the Family PACT Program, to submit to the Legislature a plan, within 60 days of the reduction, to ensure the sustainability of the program and other specified family planning services.

As changes in our federal policies seem to be occurring at a more rapid and drastic pace, California must do all it can to ensure access to quality family planning services. This bill updates current statute to mirror the current status of the Family PACT program and requires DHCS to submit a plan to the legislature to ensure the sustainability of the expanded Family PACT services, should a reduction in FFP for those services occur. For these reasons, CCLHO recommends a support position on AB 764. The Title X national family planning program provides funding for family planning centers, sets standards of care, and fills gaps in services and coverage. Publicly supported family planning visits also include screenings for STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV; cervical cancer prevention services, including Pap tests and testing and vaccination for human papillomavirus (HPV); and other key preventive care services, all of which have their own health benefits. Collectively, this bill will help ensure and advance health care access for low-income and uninsured Californians of reproductive age, prioritize health outcomes for greater impact in diverse communities across California, and increase collaboration on community health issues with valued partners providing cost-effective and needed services.

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](mailto: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