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April 3, 2017

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Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500
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Re: **SB 63 (Jackson): New Parent Leave Act (Support)**

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on March 2, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on SB 63 (Jackson), a bill that would allow employees who work for a company with 20 or more employees within a 75-mile radius to take up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to care for a new child. Parental leave is currently a protection offered only to employees working for companies with 50 or more employees.

California employees may be entitled to several medical leaves depending on the size of their employer and the reason for the leave. This bill would expand the number of California employees who receive job protection while taking leave. Parental leave to bond with a new child is associated with a range of positive health outcomes for both parent and child.

In addition, this proposed expansion of the Family Paid Leave Act also helps address current disparities in accessing job-protected family leave; without job protection most employees do not take advantage of family leave programs. Safe, stable, and nurturing relationships are critical to early healthy brain development.

As you are aware, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as 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.

This position of support for expanding the Family Paid Leave Act is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of providing scientific expertise on public health matters. It is further consistent with the legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect the health of all Californians.

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us
or at 530-265-7154.

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