



May 3, 2017

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Federal Funding for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
Trailer Bill No. 627 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, supports the Administration's proposed trailer bill No. 627 related to federal funding for public health emergency preparedness and response.

Local health departments play a vital role in responding to public health emergencies of all forms including, but not limited to natural disasters, pandemic influenzas and acts of terrorism. In order to adequately prepare and quickly respond to such threats, local health departments rely on funding from the federal government to support these activities. Local health departments must also be afforded flexibility in meeting the funding requirements and through collaboration with local jurisdictions, the state has identified areas where greater efficiencies should be made.

The Administration's trailer bill would accomplish the following:

- Update references for the use of funds from bioterrorism to public health emergencies to be consistent with activities allowable under federal grants.
- Clarify initial quarterly payments of grant funds to be made upon approval of the application for funding and subsequent payments would be made on a quarterly basis or as reimbursements upon submission of documents, consistent with current practice.
- Allow CDPH to accept certification from a designee of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor.
- Remove the requirements for local health departments to place federal funds into an interest-bearing trust fund, which is costly and difficult to comply with and is no longer consistent with federal guidance.
- Adjusts the baseline allocation to local health departments to reflect the current federal appropriation. This supports fair and equitable funding to local health departments despite decreases in the funding made available to California.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully support the Administration's proposed trailer bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Susan Fanelli, Assistant Director, California Department of Public Health
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Subcommittee No. 3
Kirk Feely, Senate Republican Caucus
Joe Parra, Senate Republican Caucus