



February 27, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD
Chair, Sen. Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Home Visiting Program Expansion – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, is pleased to SUPPORT the Governor's budget proposal to provide \$23 million General Fund to expand the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP).

In California, 23 local home visiting programs operate throughout the state providing one-on-one support to pregnant and newly-parenting families in their homes who have been identified having risk factors such as domestic violence, inadequate income, unstable housing, education less than 12 years, substance abuse, and depression and/or mental illness. Local health department public health nurses or paraprofessionals work with families for the first three years of an infant's life in order to prevent child abuse and neglect, support positive parenting, improve maternal and child health, and promote child development and school readiness utilizing an evidence-based approach.

This proposal would increase the number of families and children that would receive this intensive and specialized attention not only by increasing General Fund support but by also expanding home visiting models the CHVP may utilize based on the variability of family needs.

Local health departments support efforts to reduce inequities in maternal, infant, and child health as those provided under the California Home Visiting Program. It is for these reasons that CHEAC strongly supports the Governor's budget proposal.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director

cc: On next page

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer, California
Department of Public Health (CDPH)