



April 26, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
Acting Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 2175
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Funding – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, is pleased to SUPPORT the budget proposal by the Administration for a continuous appropriation of \$2 million General Fund to support local health department activities related to sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention and control.

According to a recent report released by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and early syphilis have increased 45 percent in California compared to five years ago. Sexually transmitted diseases, if left untreated, can lead to serious health problems such as vision, hearing, and neurologic problems, in addition to pregnancy complications and stillbirths.

Local health departments work diligently to combat the spread of communicable diseases, including STDs through providing screenings, education and outreach, and surveillance, as well as conducting intensive disease investigations. Disease investigations include screening and treatment of the original case and interviews with all sexual partners and contacts. Disease investigators facilitate testing and treatment/care for all partners that test positive. Disease investigations may also include tracing contacts through social media sites and other platforms designed to facilitate meet-ups.

Local health departments stand ready to provide input on how these additional resources can be best utilized to address the increasing rates of STDs. Some common themes include additional funding to increase the disease investigation capacity at the local level and funding for public awareness campaigns and education efforts.

It is for these reasons that CHEAC respectfully urges your support for providing funding to CDPH to support local health department prevention efforts.

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, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer, California
Department of Public Health (CDPH)