



*Dedicated to the promotion,  
protection and improvement  
of the health of all Californians*

April 21, 2016

Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair  
Subcommittee on Health and Human Services,  
Senate Committee on Budget  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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**Executive Director**

Michelle Gibbons

RE: **BUDGET REQUEST - Psychotropic Medication: Oversight, Coordination, and Monitoring - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Mitchell:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, respectfully requests consideration of a budget item to support additional public health nurse staffing to ensure appropriate psychotropic medication case management for children in foster care.

Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are one of the greatest resources in our child welfare system. California provides oversight of health care services for foster children primarily through our PHNs in the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC). HCPCFC is supported by an enhanced federal match rate of 75/25. However, funding has not kept pace with the duties assigned to the PHNs.

Legislation passed last year – SB 319 and SB 238 – expanded the role of PHNs to review and monitor psychotropic medication and treatment, assist in scheduling and monitoring appointments and support court review of treatments. The projected General Fund cost associated with SB 319 and SB 238 is \$1,650,000. The federal match will bring in an additional \$4,950,000. This critical funding would help ensure that additional staffing is available to provide adequate oversight for these vulnerable children.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We look forward to continuing this conversation and working together to improve the health outcomes of youth in foster care. 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 Committee on Budget, Sub Committee No. 3  
Michelle Baass, Consultant, Senate Committee on Budget, Sub Committee No. 3  
Kirk Feely, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus