



May 11, 2016

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

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Michelle Gibbons

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

RE: BUDGET REQUEST - Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination – SUPPORT

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, respectfully requests consideration of a budget augmentation of \$10 million to support local tuberculosis (TB) prevention activities

California reports the highest number of TB cases with over 2,000 new cases of TB each year. According to the Department of Public Health, *“at the current rate of decline, TB will not be eliminated from California until 2116.”* TB control is the shared responsibility of federal, state and local health departments, which evaluate 10,000 TB suspects and nearly 20,000 contacts each year for the disease. Local TB control programs prevent the spread of new cases in communities across California.

For the past decade, funding for TB control and prevention efforts has suffered reductions. Local health jurisdictions are California’s first line of defense against preventable communicable disease outbreaks and this additional funding would provide local jurisdictions with the resources needed to pursue critical prevention activities and potentially expedite the elimination of TB in California. It is for these reasons that CHEAC respectfully urges your consideration of this needed investment in our state’s public health.

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
Kat DeBurgh, Health Officers Association of California