



April 24, 2017

The Honorable Jim Cooper
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4
State Capitol Room 6025
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Elimination of the Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Cooper:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, supports the Administration's elimination of the state Medical Marijuana Identification Card (MMIC) Program.

The creation of the Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program in 2003 required local health departments to process applications, accept fees, and maintain program records for the MMIC at the local level. Participation in the MMIC is voluntary for those that have a physician's recommendation for the use of medical cannabis.

Under the current program, the California Department of Public Health maintains a uniform MMIC card production system along with a web-based portal that allows law enforcement to verify a MMIC-issued card's validity. With the elimination of the state MMIC, the structure supporting the issuance and verification of medical marijuana identification cards would cease to exist. Counties currently lack the infrastructure and resources to recreate an identification card program at the local level; however, if a local jurisdiction chooses to do so, the Administration's proposed trailer bill leaves that option available at the county's discretion.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully support the Governor's elimination of the MMIC. 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. 4 on State Administration
Genevieve Morelos, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4
Joshua White, Assembly Republican Caucus