



May 6, 2019

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

Re: Healthy Brain Initiative Member/Stakeholder Proposal – 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 proposed investment of \$10 million General Fund one-time by Assembly Member Monique Limón and the Alzheimer's Association to implement action agenda items of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Brain Initiative, coordinate a statewide public awareness campaign, and establish a pilot program to support county initiatives to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

According to the CDC, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, causing over 116,000 deaths in 2016. In California, 650,000 residents age 65 and older were estimated to be living with Alzheimer's Disease in 2018; by 2025, the Alzheimer's Association expects that number to rise to 840,000 Californians age 65 and over. Cognitive decline, ranging from mild cognitive impairment to dementia, can have significant and costly implications for an individual's overall health and wellbeing. Research has indicated that approximate costs of health care and long-term care to an individual living with dementia typically exceed \$350,000, and, for the entire country, those costs exceed \$290 billion.

The CDC Healthy Brain Initiative details a comprehensive, multidisciplinary path forward in promoting cognitive health, addressing cognitive impairment, and meeting needs of caregivers. The Initiative's action agenda items provide further guidance on risk identification and reduction, education and training, policy and partnership development, and monitoring and evaluation to more expeditiously slow, stop, or prevent the development of this costly condition. By strengthening state and local public health capacity, developing partnerships, and integrating cognitive health into existing public health efforts, California can make progress in reducing risk for cognitive decline amongst our residents.

It is for these reasons that CHEAC supports this proposed investment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Monique Limón, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus