



Date: May 30, 2019

To: The Honorable Holly Mitchell,
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members
Budget Conference Committee

From: Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director

RE: **4265 CDPH Issue #30 – Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention
Funding – SUPPORT SENATE VERSION**

The County Health Executives of Association California (CHEAC) respectfully requests your support of Senate's version of the budget to provide \$20 million General Fund ongoing to local health jurisdictions for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) indicates that over 280,000 cases of sexually transmitted diseases were reported to the State in 2016. Further, according to a recent report released by CDPH, California has experienced a 45 percent increase in chlamydia, gonorrhea, and early syphilis since 2012. Specifically, since 2012 early syphilis has increased by 600 percent, 283 children were born with syphilis, and 30 stillbirths have occurred due to syphilis.

Local health departments are mandated to prevent and control communicable diseases and do so through a variety of strategies such as providing screenings, education and outreach, and surveillance, as well as conducting intensive disease investigations. Local health departments employ these same strategies in the addressing the rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases.

Further, local health departments stand ready to partner with the Legislature, Administration, and stakeholders on trailer bill language to ensure these additional resources best address the rates of sexually transmitted diseases in California.

CHEAC applauds the Legislature and Administration for their interest in addressing the startling rates of sexually transmitted diseases and it is for these reasons that we respectfully urge the Budget Conference Committee to adopt the Senate version to

provide \$20 million General Fund ongoing to local health jurisdictions for STD prevention and treatment.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

cc: Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
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