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UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

INVEST IN LOCAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
INFRASTRUCTURE **NOW**

## **CA Senate Democrats' Budget Plan Aims to Rebuild Decimated Local Public Health Infrastructure**

***Public health officials, county governments, frontline workers, community advocates commend plan's emphasis on investing in crucial infrastructure and workforce; say "California Can't Wait" to prepare for next crisis, invest in equity***

Sacramento, CA -- Members of the "California Can't Wait" coalition of local public health officials, county governments, frontline health workers, and community advocates applaud California Senate Democrats' prioritization to rebuild state and local public health workforce and infrastructure as part of their 'Build Back Boldy' FY 21-22 state budget plan.

"COVID-19 made crystal clear why California can't pay attention to public health only when a crisis strikes. Ongoing investment in public health infrastructure is what will keep our economy strong, our kids learning, and our grandparents safe in nursing homes, whether the next threat comes from a virus, climate change, or food-borne illness," said Michelle Gibbons, executive director of the County Health Executives Association of California, a statewide organization that represents county and city Health Department and Agency Directors. "CHEAC appreciates that Senate President Pro Tempore Atkins, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Chair Skinner and California Senate Democrats have recognized the value of California's local public health departments to Californians' well-being and the health of our economy."

"SEIU members have been warning for years that California wasn't investing enough in public health and that skimping on these crucial services would leave communities of color most vulnerable. After the last year's devastation, there is no question that a strong public health workforce makes a difference when lives are on the line," said Bob Schoonover, President of SEIU California and Executive Director of SEIU Local 721. "We are glad to see Senate Democrats stepping up to lead on building a public health workforce that gives everyone in California the opportunity to be healthy, whether we are Black, Brown, white, API or Native American."

The California Can't Wait coalition is calling on Governor Newsom and lawmakers to invest \$200 million annually in local public health, beginning with the FY 21-22 State Budget, to help rebuild our local workforce and infrastructure to prepare for the next crisis before it hits. They are also asking state leaders to prioritize \$3.45 million for Assembly Bill 240 (Rodriguez) to study the long-term needs of local public health agencies.

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*The California Can't Wait Coalition is led by the County Health Executives Association of California, Service Employees International Union - California, Health Officers Association of California, Public Health Advocates, California State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California, and the Urban Counties of California.*