



February 7, 2022

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Early Action Items: \$1.6 billion for CDPH COVID-19 Response – SUPPORT

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout the state, supports the Governor's proposal to provide \$1.6 billion in the current year to support COVID-19 response efforts. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, ongoing response efforts are necessary to protect the health of our communities.

Local health departments support efforts to increase vaccination rates and access to timely testing in the community and worked with the state on the placement and expansion of OptumServe testing sites. During instances where supplies may be limited, local health departments rely on the state's purchasing power as demonstrated by the deployment of over-the-counter antigen tests to increase community access. Lastly, during the recent surge, local health department staffing was impacted by COVID-19 cases. In these instances, having additional staff deployed to local health jurisdictions that can be used flexibly to support vaccination, testing, and contact tracing efforts in vulnerable settings is essential to ensuring services continue without significant interruption.

The deployment of resources into local health jurisdictions are effective, when done in coordination with the local health department, leveraging their local expertise, diverse needs, and minimizing the risk for duplication. We encourage the state to reinforce this approach in the deployment of additional resources.

CHEAC commends the Governor for this proposal to continue resourcing ongoing response efforts and respectfully urges the Legislature to approve these funds to help protect the health and well-being of local communities.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to me at mgibbons@cheac.org or (916) 327-7540.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Agnes Lee, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Joe Stephenshaw, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Keely Bosler, Director, California Department of Finance
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of
Public Health
Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom