

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

June 28, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Support – \$300 million for State and Local Public Health and \$75.6 million for Public Health Workforce Programs

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, respectfully urge your adoption of the \$300 million annual investment in public health infrastructure, which dedicates \$200 million annually for local health departments, and \$75.6 million one-time in public health workforce programs.

Even before the pandemic, public health departments faced significant workforce challenges. Fewer than one in six graduates from schools of public health go on to work in governmental public health, and nationwide, public health lost roughly 50,000 jobs after the Great Recession. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges as public health workers have grappled with burnout and harassment, while also being heavily recruited by other sectors.

In the face of the great resignation, we recognize additional support for recruitment and retention is needed. However, the investments in this budget agreement acknowledge the vital lessons learned during COVID-19, that local health departments are instrumental in protecting lives, ensuring health equity, and avoiding excess social and economic disruption. Our local health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats and rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce. These investments increase our workforce capacity at the local level, reduce barriers for public health nurses, allow public health staff to advance their skills, and increase funding for training programs that strengthen the pool of skilled public health workers.

It is for these reasons that our organizations respectfully urge your Administration to adopt these important public health investments.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California

As signed by

Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California

As signed by

Beth Malinowski
Government Relations Advocate
SEIU California

As signed by

Farrah McDaid Ting
Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties

As signed by

Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California

As signed by

Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California

As signed by

Harold Goldstein, DrPH
Executive Director
Public Health Advocates

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, California Senate
Honorable Members, California Assembly
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Myesha Jackson, Policy Director, Office of the Assembly Speaker
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 Dept. of Public Health
Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, Department of Health Care Access and Information
Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee

Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus

Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1

Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus

Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

Sonja Petek, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office