

# #CACantWait UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

August 30, 2022

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

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

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

**RE: MPX Response Funding in AB 179 / SB 179 – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tempore Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write in support of the \$41.5 million (\$25.7 million state support and \$15.8 million local assistance) proposed in AB 179 / SB 179 for MPX response.

As of August 26, over 3,300 California residents have been infected with MPX. Our local health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, including emerging diseases such as MPX and because of this responsibility, we support the ability to transfer up to \$25.7 million from state support to local assistance. This funding would support a robust and public health response to MPX in California.

Local health departments have identified significant and ongoing needs associated with the MPX outbreak, including but not limited to:

- Local health department vaccination clinics
- Coordination of vaccine supply with local health care providers
- Access to treatment, including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis

- Staffing resources, such as vaccinators, contact tracers, disease investigators, and community engagement personnel
- Laboratory testing and processing
- Communications and outreach to at-risk populations
- Prevention and harm reduction strategies

As seen with COVID-19, as California continues to experience an MPX outbreak, additional resources will be needed and another budget request may become necessary.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter, and we respectfully request your support of additional funding to support expanded MPX testing, vaccination, treatment, and outreach efforts among our local health departments.

Respectfully,



Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director  
County Health Executives Association of  
California



Kat DeBurgh  
Executive Director  
Health Officers Association of California



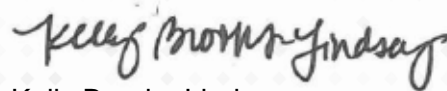
Beth Malinowski  
Government Relations Advocate  
SEIU California



Jolie Onodera  
Legislative Representative  
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey  
Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California

cc: Honorable Members, California State Senate  
Honorable Members, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Scott Wiener, Member, California State Senate  
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Atkins  
Christopher Woods, Consultant, Office of Sen. President pro Tempore Atkins  
Mary Ader, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Rendon  
Jason Sisney, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Rendon  
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Tomás Aragón, Director and State Health Officer, California Department of  
Public Health  
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance