



March 6, 2023

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health & Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 8130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Issue 6: Removal of Medical Doctor Requirement for EMSA Director and Appointment of Chief Medical Officer – SUPPORT IF AMENDED**

Dear Assembly Member Arambula,

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout the state, writes to express our **SUPPORT IF AMENDED** position on the Administration's proposed budget trailer bill to remove the medical doctor requirement for the EMSA director and appoint a chief medical officer.

The Administration's proposed leadership structure for EMSA represents a similar approach to local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) statewide in which an administrator and medical director work together to oversee the local EMS system.

Removing the requirement for the EMSA director to hold a medical doctor degree may result in additional and more diverse applicants for the position. In considering underrepresentation of communities of color in the medical field and leadership positions, as well as California's vastly diverse population, modifying the requirements for the EMSA director position has the potential to foster new perspectives in the field and make gains in the state's commitment to health equity.

However, CHEAC requests the following amendments to the Administration's proposed trailer bill to ensure appropriate medical oversight of the state EMS system:

- Update all existing laws assigning oversight of clinical and medical aspects of the state EMS system from the EMSA director to the new chief medical officer position.
- Require that the EMSA director have extensive experience in EMS, health, public health, and/or a related field; and

For these above reasons, CHEAC expresses our **SUPPORT IF AMENDED** position on Administration's proposed budget trailer bill to modify EMSA director requirements and the appoint a chief medical officer.

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Should you have any questions, please contact me at [mgibbons@cheac.org](mailto:mgibbons@cheac.org) or 916-327-7540.  
Thank you.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance  
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Julie Souliere, Assistant Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Elizabeth Basnett, Acting Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority  
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