



March 14, 2023

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Menjivar,

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.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at mgibbons@cheac.org or 916-327-7540.
Thank you.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate 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
Richard Figueroa, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Will Owens, Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)