

#CACantWait UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

May 15, 2023

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

RE: May Revision Restoration of \$49.8 million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our support and gratitude for your May Revision proposal to rescind the Administration's January proposal to cut \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs. Our organizations additionally applaud your Administration's maintenance of its ongoing investment of \$300 million for public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Local public health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats, and these departments rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce that are often stretched far too thin. Even before the pandemic, public health departments have 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, and 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.

These programs are the few initiatives dedicated to supporting the public health workforce pipeline in California and seek to bolster local staffing expertise and skills needed to protect California communities from existing and emerging public health threats. Our nation has experienced what understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments mean for community spread and outcomes during a pandemic, and California is no exception. We must continue to support the public health workforce and ensure opportunities for training and development.

It is for these reasons that our organizations express our support and gratitude for rescinding the January proposal to reduce funding for public health workforce training and development programs.

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

Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
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
Mary Ader, Policy Director, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Joe Stephenshaw, 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

Richard Figueroa, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, 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
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