

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

June 29, 2023

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

RE: 2023 Budget Act – Public Health Workforce & Infrastructure Investments

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for your Administration's investments into public health workforce and infrastructure in the 2023 Budget Act. Specifically, we applaud the state's ongoing Future of Public Health investment in state and local public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments, as well as the restoration of \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs initially included in the 2022 Budget Act.

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 investments 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 poor health 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.

Our organizations deeply appreciate your Administration's leadership in prioritizing public health and express our gratitude for the significant investments in state and local governmental public health through the 2023 Budget Act.

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: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Mary Ader, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus

Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus

Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus

Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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