

# #CACantWait

## UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

Date: June 13, 2023

To: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee

**RE: Restoration of \$49.8 Million for Public Health Workforce Development and Training Programs – SUPPORT**

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, write to express our strong support and appreciation for the restoration of \$49.8 million in public health workforce development and training programs in the Legislature's FY 2023-24 Budget. Our organizations additionally applaud the Legislature and Newsom Administration for maintaining 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 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 the Legislature's leadership in prioritizing public health and respectfully request your support of the restoration of the \$49.8 million investment in public health workforce training and development programs included in the Legislative Budget.

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 Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California  
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