

#CACantWait

UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS

June 27, 2024

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

RE: Future of Public Health Workforce and Infrastructure Investment – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE on SB 108

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned organizations, representing the California Can't Wait Coalition, respectfully request your signature on SB 108, representing the final budget act agreement which maintains \$276.1 million ongoing General Fund for state and local public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$184.1 million for local health departments. Our coalition acknowledges the difficult decisions prompted by the state's challenging budget climate, and we are grateful that the final agreement maintains a level of commitment to protect and promote the health of our California communities.

With the Future of Public Health funds, local health departments throughout the state have hired more than 1,100 public health professionals, including public health nurses, disease investigators, epidemiologists, microbiologists, health equity professionals, and other skilled public health professionals. Staff positions supported by this funding have been deployed to respond to communicable disease outbreaks among unhoused and other vulnerable populations, strengthened partnerships and engagement with local stakeholders and community-based organizations, and enhanced preparedness for public health emergencies, among other critical activities.

We must acknowledge the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially that state and local health departments are instrumental in protecting lives, ensuring health equity, and avoiding excess social and economic disruption. Our local health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats and rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce supported by this funding.

We are grateful to your Administration for maintaining a level of commitment to rebuild our state and local public health workforce and infrastructure. It is for these reasons our coalition respectfully requests your signature on SB 108 representing the final budget act agreement.

Respectfully,

As signed by

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director
County Health Executives Association of
California (CHEAC)

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

As signed by

Janice O'Malley
Legislative & Political Action Representative
American Federation of State, County, and
Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

As signed by

Ronald Coleman Baeza
Managing Director of Policy
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)

As signed by

Sebastian Perez
Policy Committee Co-Chair
End the Epidemics

As signed by

Matthew Marsom
Chief, Programs, Policy, and Government
Relations Officer
Public Health Institute

cc: Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency
Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Rosielyn Pulmano, Policy Consultant, 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 Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Will Owens, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office