



May 19, 2026

The Honorable John Laird  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review  
Subcommittee No. 3  
1021 O Street, Suite 6630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
1021 O Street, Suite 4120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: 4265 – California Department of Public Health (CDPH)  
Investment in Public Health Information Technology Systems – SUPPORT**

Dear Senators Laird and Menjivar and Assembly Members Gabriel and Addis,

The undersigned organizations, representing local health department executives, physician health officers, and frontline workers in California's local health jurisdictions, express SUPPORT for the Governor's May Revision proposal to provide \$113.3 million in 2026-27 for key public health information technology (IT) systems within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

These systems are foundational to California's ability to detect and track disease, conduct timely case investigation and contact follow-up, manage vaccine ordering and distribution, and coordinate rapid responses to communicable disease threats. Together, these systems provide the core infrastructure that state and local public health departments rely on every day to protect communities, contain outbreaks, and maintain readiness for emerging public health emergencies.

These key public health IT systems include:

- **Surveillance and Public Health Information Reporting and Exchange (SaPHIRE)** – SaPHIRE supports timely and accurate case and laboratory reporting for over 80 infectious disease conditions in the state, providing state and local health departments with comprehensive disease surveillance capabilities and insights into infectious disease outbreaks and emergencies.
- **California Confidential Network for Contact Tracing (CalCONNECT)** – Established during the COVID-19 pandemic, CalCONNECT provides state and local disease investigators with modern capabilities to conduct timely and efficient disease investigation, contact tracing, outbreak investigation, symptom monitoring, and public health outreach. CalCONNECT has been especially important in the response to recent measles cases in the state.

- **California Immunization Registry (CAIR)** – CAIR is the statewide immunization system used for capturing and storing vaccination data for California’s residents. This information not only protects our local communities but will be key to honoring our state’s vision for the West Coast Health Alliance.
- **Future Disease Surveillance System (FDSS)** – FDSS is the planned cloud-based replacement of the state’s current disease reporting system, the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE). This system is how local health departments and the state find out about cases of disease in California, a critical first step in the public health response. CalREDIE is decades old and needs to be replaced to maintain state and local capabilities to respond to infectious diseases.
- **California Vaccine Management System (myCAVax)** – myCAVax is the state’s direct access software platform for vaccine ordering, distribution, and management of all CDPH’s vaccine programs, including but not limited to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program, State Influenza Program, and the LHD 317 program for underinsured and uninsured individuals. Using myCAVax saves CDPH, local health departments, and providers hundreds of hours of staff time each year, allowing providers to order flu vaccine and other immunizations directly.

Recent federal rollbacks in public health funding and global partnerships underscore the importance of these proposed state investments. At a time when national infrastructure is being weakened, California’s public health IT systems remain essential to disease surveillance, outbreak response, immunization efforts, and statewide readiness.

We applaud the Administration for recognizing the value of this infrastructure and for proposing funding that will help sustain and strengthen California’s capacity to protect communities and lead in communicable disease preparedness, response, and innovation.

CHEAC, HOAC, and SEIU California respectfully request the Legislature to SUPPORT the \$113.3 million proposed investment in CDPH public health IT systems in 2026-27. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*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  
(HOAC)

*As signed by*

Beth Malinowski  
Government Relations Advocate  
SEIU California

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee  
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Patrick Le, 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  
Marjorie Swartz, Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance  
Kim Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Erica Pan, Director & State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health  
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Will Owens, Senior Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)