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May 22, 2023

RE: AB 437 - State government: equity

To Dr. Aragon,

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), representing the appointed physician health officers of California's 61 city and county jurisdictions, we would like to express our recommendation to **SUPPORT AB 437**.

This bill would require state agencies and departments, in carrying out their duties, to consider the use of more inclusive practices to advance equity, as specified. To the extent allowed by law, every state agency and department shall, in carrying out its duties under law, consider the use of more inclusive practices to advance equity in the agency's or department's mission, vision, goals, data tools, policies, programs, operations, community engagement, tribal consultation policies and practices, and other actions as necessary to better serve all Californians. The bill further defines "equity" as "addressing the disparities in opportunities and outcomes of underserved populations".

For these reasons, CCLHO recommends a SUPPORT position for AB 437.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature, and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers