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March 9, 2023

### **RE: AB 1180 (Rodriguez) – Emergency Medical Services: Oppose unless Amended**

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 **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED** AB 1180 that sets to remove the physician requirement for the Director position for the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA).

Existing law establishes the EMSA and requires the authority to be headed by a director who is a licensed physician and surgeon with substantial experience in the practice of emergency medicine. This bill would remove the requirement that the director be a licensed physician and surgeon with substantial experience in the practice of emergency medicine and would instead require the director to have substantial experience in the practice of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

In the event a Chief Medical Officer (CMO) position is created in addition to the Director, CCLHO recommends the following amendments:

- CMO to retain all medical authority and medical decision making
- CMO to maintain, but not limited to, existing statutory authority
- CMO must have substantial experience in practice of emergency medicine
- Institute additional statutory clause that delineates the authority of both Director and CMO if conflict arises

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