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June 6, 2019

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH  
Director and State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health  
1615 Capitol Avenue  
PO Box 997377, MS 0500  
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

#### Re: AB 388 (Limon): Alzheimer's disease

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on June 6, 2019 to take a Support recommendation on AB 388 (Limon), a bill that under current law authorizes any postsecondary higher educational institution with a medical center to establish diagnostic and treatment centers for Alzheimer's disease, and requires the State Department of Public Health to administer grants to the postsecondary higher educational institutions that establish a center pursuant to these provisions. Until January 1, 2025, this bill would require the department to implement the action agenda items in the Healthy Brain Initiative, as defined, to the extent resources are available. The bill would require the department to annually notify the Legislature about activities conducted pursuant to these provisions.

In California, 2.2 million are directly impacted by Alzheimer's disease and dementia, with Medi-Cal spending \$3.8 billion on beneficiaries living with Alzheimer's last year. Additionally, 16,238 deaths were attributed to Alzheimer's disease in 2017 in the state. Alzheimer's disease is the third leading cause of death, impacting millions of lives throughout the state, but less than half of all Californians affected have been formally diagnosed by a clinician. Although the onset of Alzheimer's cannot yet be stopped or reversed, early detection and diagnosis can make it easier for patients and their families to manage the disease. For these reasons, CCLHO believes it is time for California to invest in reducing costs and improving health outcomes with those effected by Alzheimer's, thus recommends a Support position on AB 388.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), 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.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at [roidham@placer.ca.gov](mailto:roidham@placer.ca.gov) or by phone at (530) 745-3121. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers