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June 4, 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 61 (Ting): Gun violence restraining orders

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on May 1, 2019 to take a Support recommendation on AB 61 (Ting), a bill that states under current law authorizes a court to issue an ex parte gun violence restraining order prohibiting the subject of the petition from having in their custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive, a firearm or ammunition when it is shown that there is a substantial likelihood that the subject of the petition poses a significant danger of self-harm or harm to another in the near future by having in their custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm, and that the order is necessary to prevent personal injury to the subject of the petition or another, as specified. Current law authorizes renewal of a gun violence restraining order within 3 months of the order's expiration. Petitions for ex parte, one-year, and renewed gun violence restraining orders may be made by an immediate family member of the person or by a law enforcement officer.

AB 61 would similarly authorize, an employer, a coworker who has substantial and regular interactions with the person and approval of their employer, or an employee or teacher of a secondary or postsecondary school, with approval of the school administration staff, that the person has attended in the last 6 months to file a petition for an ex parte, one-year, or renewed gun violence restraining order. For these reasons, CCLHO recommends a support position on AB 61.

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 roldham@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