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March 9, 2023

RE: Dr. Nadine Burke Harris nomination

To Dr. Aragon,

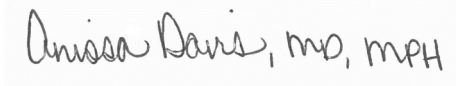
The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) enthusiastically nominates Dr. Nadine Burke Harris for the 2023 Beverlee A. Meyers Award for Public Health Excellence. As California's first Surgeon General, Dr. Burke Harris was uniquely poised to raise public awareness, and transform the way society responds to children exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress. ACEs continues to be a top priority area for CCLHO. Despite Dr. Burke Harris being an award-winning scientist, entrepreneur and advocate, she remained dedicated to changing the way society responds to one of the most serious, expensive and widespread public health crises of our time: childhood trauma.

While those feats alone deserve praise, we find the total of Dr. Burke Harris's accomplishments and the poise she has demonstrated throughout her career have been unsurpassed. Her efforts have extended well beyond the state's borders and have extended to the federal level. During her time as Surgeon General, she led the effort and creation of Roadmap for Resilience: The California Surgeon General's Report on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Toxic Stress, and Health. Dr. Burke Harris has continually championed the many needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged, tirelessly working with others within these communities to raise issues that urgently needed attention. She consistently looks at issues through an equity lens, often being the first to alert her colleagues if proposed actions might unfairly disadvantage our most vulnerable populations, offering suggestions for how to make them more equitable, thinking not only of her own communities but of those across the state. Because she recognizes and appreciates the richness in experiences throughout the state, Dr. Burke Harris has made sure that there has always been an equitable focus. Moreover, she has always made herself available to her colleagues, taking the time to provide advice and guidance for new public health professionals.

These activities illustrate Dr. Burke Harris's unwavering commitment to public health for all Californians. For the reasons stated above, CCLHO nominates Dr. Burke Harris for the Beverlee A. Meyers Award for Public Health Excellence

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anissa Davis, MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light gray rectangular box.

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