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August 26, 2021

Gavin Newsom  
Governor, Governor's Office  
Sacramento, California

## **RE: Proposed University of California Climate Health Resilience Initiative Budget Appropriation in the 2021-2022 State Budget**

To whom it may concern,

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) strongly urge you to support the University of California Climate Health Resilience Initiative (UC CHRI) by allocating \$12 million to the UC CHRI in this year's state budget. CCLHO is deeply encouraged by the Governor's decision to invest \$3.675 billion in climate resilience efforts. For many years now, climate change has remained a top priority for CCLHO and we feel the UC CHRI can bring the breadth and depth of the University of California's expertise in healthcare, education, and research to advance climate health and equity.

Working on the frontlines of public health and the climate crisis, the members of the CCLHO see the impacts of climate change on our communities' health and wellbeing everyday — from children suffering from wildfire smoke-induced asthma to elderly patients and workers suffering from heat stroke. Our health systems are also under increasing strain - dozens of hospitals have been forced to stop services or evacuate during recent wildfires. For California to be truly climate resilient, it is essential that we invest in solutions that protect the health of our communities and health care systems. The UC CHRI will be an invaluable resource to us in our efforts to maximize health and equity as we build resilience to climate change in California.

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.

Sincerely,

Karen Relucio, MD  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers