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## RE: UC Merced: MPH Program

To Dr. Bradman,

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), I would like to share our strongest support for the development of a Master of Public Health (MPH) program at UC Merced.

The MPH is a professional degree aimed at providing advanced training in Public Health Leadership necessary to address population health needs. In California, the public health workforce needs a financially accessible option especially among our diverse population. CCLHO understands the urgent need for more Public Health professionals in the San Joaquin Valley and other agricultural and rural communities who have the skills and knowledge to conduct surveillance, epidemiological assessments, environment health assessments, and to develop and evaluate interventions to improve public health in our vulnerable populations. UC Merced is best positioned to address this need for the state of California given their focus on communities and training of a diverse student population. Having the degree offered within the UC Merced system would reduce the barriers needed to have MPH-level professionals now and in the future.

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