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June 20, 2025

#### RE: AB 592 - Business: retail food (Oppose unless Amended)

Dear California Department of Public Health:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), which represents the appointed physician health officers of California's 61 city and county jurisdictions, would like to express our recommendation to **oppose AB 592 unless amended**. On June 5, 2025, the CCLHO Board of Directors voted to approve the oppose unless amended recommendation.

The California Retail Food Code establishes uniform health and sanitation standards for, and provides for regulation by the California Department of Public Health of, retail food facilities. Existing law requires permanent food facilities to be fully enclosed in a building consisting of permanent floors, walls, and an overhead structure that meet prescribed minimum standards. AB 592 would continue to require a permanent food facility to be in a building that consists of permanent floors, walls, and overhead structure, and be fully enclosed during hours of nonoperation, but would authorize the facility to use open windows, folding doors, or nonfixed store fronts during hours of operation.

While dining areas can safely be open to the outdoors, food preparation areas should be held to a higher standard and remain fully enclosed due to the risks of vectors entering and transmitting disease. Therefore, CCLHO opposes AB 592 unless it is amended to require that food preparation areas for potentially hazardous foods in permanent food facilities be completely enclosed. This amendment would keep California's food code consistent with science-based best practices outlined in the FDA's model food code.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise CDPH, other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature, and other organizations on all matters affecting health.

Sincerely,

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH  
President