

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS

CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY LEGISLATION NOVEMBER 2013

Legislation will be considered **priority legislation** for health officer action if it does any of the following:

- Is a population-based issue affecting health of all Californians, or affecting specific vulnerable populations
- Is based on science with an opportunity for the professional expertise of health officers
- Addresses funding of local health departments
- Strengthens, weakens, or changes the role of the local health department
- Strengthens, weakens, or changes the role of the health officer

Other legislation may be considered for health officer action if it affects key tenants from the CCLHO Policy Platform and the CCLHO Strategic Plan. However, this legislation may not ultimately be pursued.

- Identify and respond to disease outbreaks, environmental contamination, natural disasters, and other emergencies
- Promote good health through health education activities and address the environmental, behavioral, and social determinants of health crucial to community health
- Maintain and strengthen the public health infrastructure to perform the ten essential public health services
- Address primary prevention strategies that lower the risk of illness and injury by preventing the development of risk factors, such as smoking and obesity, by eliminating risk factors, or by mitigating the health effects of risk factors to keep individuals healthier for longer periods of time
- Provide public health services in collaboration with the private and public sectors and state and federal governments

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- Maintain the state Department of Public Health's epidemiological, laboratory, electronic resources, and staffing to coordinate population-based surveillance efforts; assist local jurisdictions with investigations and direct them when needed; spearhead disease prevention and health promotion efforts; promulgate statewide standards; promote professional training; conduct practical research to improve laboratory methods and community and behavioral interventions; and take the lead in planning for meeting future public health needs
- Promote access to universal health care
- Impact local reporting and surveillance systems, including adequate resources for every local health jurisdiction to monitor the health of its community, including monitoring chronic disease
- Focus on social justice, including income, employment, housing, transportation, education, physical environment, and social engagement, which are key factors that contribute to the well-being of all persons in society
- Reduce inequities in health status due to unequal access to health, educational, and economic opportunities
- Include consideration of health in all policies, including housing, transportation, agriculture, climate change, environmental quality, criminal justice, education, parks, jobs, and other issues all significantly influence the physical, economic, and social environments in which people live, shop, work, study, and play