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June 4, 2019

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

Re: AB 1603 (Wicks): California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on May 1, 2019 to take a Support recommendation on AB 1603 (Wicks), a bill that under the current Budget Act of 2018 establishes the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP), administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections, to award competitive grants for the purpose of violence intervention and prevention. This bill would codify the establishment of the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program and the authority and duties of the board in administering the program, including the selection criteria for grants and reporting requirements to the Legislature.

AB 1603 will codify the establishment of the CalVIP Grant Program and the authority and duties of the board in administering the program, including the selection criteria for grants and reporting requirements to the Legislature. The bill will strengthen the CalVIP grant program by ensuring that funds will be used for the most targeted, effective, and evidence-based violence reduction programs in communities with the greatest need for additional violence prevention resources. For these reasons, CCLHO recommends a Support position on AB 1603.

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.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at roidham@placer.ca.gov or by phone at (530) 745-3121. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers