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April 12, 2024

## RE: AB 2250 - Social determinants of health: screening and outreach (Support)

To Dr Aragon,

On behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), representing the appointed physician health officers of California's 61 city and county jurisdictions, we would like to express our recommendation to **Support AB 2250**. On April 3, 2024, CCLHO voted to approve the support recommendation.

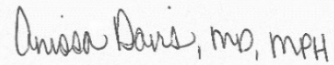
AB 2250 is like AB 85 (Weber) presented last year, which CCLHO supported. AB 85 was vetoed by the Governor due to budgetary concerns. Dr. Weber is reintroducing the bill, with some changes. The main difference between last year's AB 85 and this year's AB 2250 is that AB 85 had required Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to convene a work group to determine standardized tools/protocols and models of connecting patients to the community. The work group language has been removed and instead, AB 2250 requires providers to use Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screening tools/protocols validated by federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Association of Community Health Centers, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), or other nationally recognized organizations. Components of the SDOH screening tool utilized must include screening for food insecurity, housing insecurity, transportation needs, and utility difficulties. In addition, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) would be required to provide guidance on implementation and direct health plans to provide primary care providers with adequate access to peer support specialists, lay health workers, social workers, and community health workers, who can assist to work with the patients based on the SDOH's need(s) identified.

CCLHO supports this bill for the following reasons –

- Addresses social determinants of health is a primary approach to achieving health equity.
- This bill allows for primary care providers to be reimbursed for SDOH screening – ensuring a higher uptake for SDOH screening in the primary care setting.
- There is a mechanism for primary care providers to refer to community health workers (etc.) when a SDOH need is identified.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anissa Davis, MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers