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RE: AB 1733 - State bodies: open meetings

Dear Dr. Aragon:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on February 13, 2022 to take a Support recommendation on AB 1733 (Quirk), a bill that would specify that a “meeting” under the act, includes a meeting held entirely by teleconference. This bill would require all open meetings to be held by teleconference, would allow for use of teleconference in closed sessions, and would remove existing provisions of the act that require each teleconference location to be identified in the notice and agenda and accessible to the public. The bill would require the state body to provide members of the public a physical location to hear, observe, and address the state body, and would authorize the members of the state body to participate in a meeting remotely or at a designated physical meeting location, and specify that physical presence at any physical meeting location is not necessary for the member to be deemed present at the meeting. The bill would prohibit the notice and agenda from disclosing any information regarding any remote location from which a member is participating and would require members attending a meeting from a remote location to disclose whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room, as specified. This bill will better ensure the safety and well-being of our local public health officers. For these reasons, CCLHO recommends a support position on AB 1733.

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.

Sincerely,

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers