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April 6, 2023

#### RE: SB 544 - Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing

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 strongly **SUPPORT SB 544**. SB 544 would –

- Remove the teleconference requirements that a state body post agendas at all teleconference locations;
- Remove requirement that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and;
- Remove requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public.

With the suspension of teleconferencing requirements of open/public meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, significant data was collected during this time that demonstrated increased public participation in open/public meetings along with increased willingness of participants to serve as members of organizations that are subject to the Bagley-Keene Act. With the increased use of technology, this bill would assist in the evolution of open/public meetings.

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,

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