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July 13, 2017

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Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Re: AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer): Counties: Contracts for Personal Services (Oppose)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board Meeting on July 6, 2017 to take an Oppose recommendation on AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer), a bill that would establish specific standards for personal service contracts used by counties. The bill would require counties wishing to enter into a personal services contract to:

- Demonstrate that the proposed contract will result in actual overall costs savings to the county,
- Determine that the contract does not cause the displacement of county workers.
- Conduct an audit of the contract contracts for personal services in excess of \$100,000 annually to determine whether cost savings have been realized, and
- Require the contractor to reimburse the county for the cost of the audit.

CCLHO is opposed to AB 1250 as this bill would significantly limit the ability of county local health departments to contract out for necessary services in order to protect the public's health. This bill would detrimentally affect the ability to hire via contract those essential yet hard to fill positions, such as skilled public health nurses and public health laboratory personnel. Recruiting and retention of skilled, expert public health workers can already be challenging, and AB 1250 would place a large administrative burden on counties and exacerbate hiring challenges. CCLHO is concerned that these burdens would likely reduce effective and beneficial services that health departments provide to their community members and potentially weaken the public health infrastructure.

As you know, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as 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.

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This position of oppose for AB 1250 is consistent with CCLHO's legislative priority of providing recommendations on bills that would weaken the role of the local health department. AB 1250 also aligns with CCLHO's strategic priority of advancing core public health functions in local health jurisdictions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us or at 530-265-7154.

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers