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Director and State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health  
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500  
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**Re: AB 1512 (McCarty): Opioid Addiction Prevention and Rehabilitation Act (Support if Amended)**

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Conference Business Meeting on May 3, 2017 to take a Support if Amended recommendation on AB 1512 (McCarty), a bill that would establish the Opioid Addiction Prevention and Rehabilitation Act and impose a tax upon the distribution of opioids at the rate of \$0.01 per milligram of active opioid ingredient. AB 1512 would also establish the Opioid Prevention and Rehabilitation Program (OPRP) Fund in the State Treasury, with the intent to distribute the moneys in the fund for addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs.

CCLHO's position of support is contingent on an amendment to include funding for local epidemiology and surveillance on the public health impacts of opioid use and addiction. The measurement of the magnitude of a problem and the ability to track trend data is critical to assessing the effectiveness of various interventions, especially at the local level. Such epidemiologic analysis requires resources and funding.

CCLHO recognizes the value of product stewardship, including pharmaceuticals, and supports the use of tax revenue generated from sales of opioid products to support prevention of opioid misuse and opioid addiction treatment.

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.

This position of support if amended for AB 1219 is consistent with CCLHO's legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect specific vulnerable populations. This position also aligns with CCLHO's strategic priority of taking a leadership role in the practice of public health and policy development.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto: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