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August 7, 2018

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

RE: AB 1788 (Salas): Public Health: Valley Fever (Oppose)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board Meeting on August 2, 2018 to recommend an Oppose position on AB 1788 (Salas). This bill would authorize the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), for the purpose of reports confirming a case of Valley Fever, to use laboratory criteria for diagnosis, with or without clinical criteria.

CCLHO recommends an oppose position on AB 1788, as the current regulatory process for reportable diseases, including Valley Fever, allows CDPH to determine the methodologies for use lab reports to diagnose. Redundant, CDPH can already do this through Title 17. CDPH should determine case reporting and reportable disease reporting, highlighting one condition through legislation is unnecessary and constrains the ability of CDPH to modify reporting and case confirmations. Additionally, this legislation is not needed, as CDPH has convened a workgroup of state and local representatives to develop a more systematic approach to Valley Fever reporting and case confirmations.

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.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 530-265-7154 or by email at ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us.

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