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May 25, 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 2289 (Weber): Pupil Rights: Pregnant and Parenting Pupils (Support)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Business Meeting on May 9, 2018 to recommend a Support position on AB 2289 (Weber), a bill that would establish parental leave and sick leave for pregnant and parenting pupils. The bill includes additional accommodations to facilitate the ability of pregnant and parenting students to succeed academically and protect their health and the health of their infant.

AB 2289 would require the following accommodations for pregnancy and parenting students:

- Establishes leave for up to eight weeks for a pregnant or parenting student. The leave may be taken prior to the birth if there is a medical necessity or up to one year afterwards;
- Requires a minimum of four days each semester of excused absences to care for a sick child;
- Ensures student absences while on leave are excused, and the student has an opportunity to make up work missed while on leave, including providing guidelines for making up that work;
- Requires a school to treat pregnancy, childbirth and recovery the same as any other temporary disabling condition.

Thousands of teen students in California are also parents themselves. Significant parental leave for young parents can expand their schooling options; in general, continuation high schools offer fewer programs than traditional high schools and fewer college preparatory courses. Increased academic attainment is associated with better economic and health outcomes.

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 email at [ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ken.cutler@co.nevada.ca.us) or by phone 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