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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 275 (Wood): Long Term Care Facilities (Support)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on April 6, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on AB 275 (Wood), a bill that would extend the timeline and notice periods that long-term care (LTC) facilities are required to provide when they are planning to close.

CCLHO supports AB 275 as this bill would extend from 30 to 60 days the time and notice periods that LTC facilities must provide residents, families, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Office of the State LTC Ombudsman when they are planning to close. Additionally, this legislation strengthens the requirement to medically and socially assess residents and to provide information in relocation plans regarding other LTC or SNF beds available in the community and the reason for proposed closure. In California, the elderly population is projected to grow significantly faster than the rate of growth of the general population. One of the essential public health services is assuring the provision of health care and linking people to needed health services. AB 275 helps further assure that linkage.

As you are aware, 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 for AB 275 is consistent with CCLHO's legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect specific vulnerable populations.

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,

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