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May 5, 2016

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer  
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**RE: AB 2796 (Bloom): Transportation and Non-Infrastructure Funding (Support)**

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board Business meeting on April 13, 2016 to take a Support recommendation on AB 2796 (Bloom), a bill that would require that funds from the Active Transportation Program (ATP) award minimum amounts of total funding for the following activities: a minimum of five percent for active transportation planning and community engagement in disadvantaged communities; and ten to thirty percent of funds for non-infrastructure programming, including Safe Routes to Schools.

CCLHO recommends a support position on AB 2796 as the bill would help address the competitive disadvantage of planning and non-infrastructure projects for ATP funding, as compared to infrastructure projects, and enable such projects to compete fairly in the ATP grant process. Planning activities are also an essential component for successful active transportation projects, with planning resources a significant need, particularly for resource-poor communities. This change in funding allocations would also likely encourage more communities, including small jurisdictions, to apply for ATP funding.

CCLHO has concern that the methodology to be used to identify disadvantaged communities is not specified, and would be willing to review that methodology at the point that regulations are being drafted.

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 requiring minimum ATP funding percentages for specific activities is consistent 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 contact me at [jberreman@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:jberreman@ci.berkeley.ca.us) or at 510-981-5301. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Dr. Berreman*

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers