



1615 Capitol Ave., Suite 73.771
P.O. Box 997377, MS 7003
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

PHONE: 916.440.7594
FAX: 916.440.7595
<http://www.cclho.org>

Leah Northrop, MPA, MAIS
Executive Administrator
Leah.Northrop@cdph.ca.gov

March 30, 2017

Jennifer Kent, Director
California Department of Health Care Services
P.O. Box 997413, MS 0000
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Re: AB 340 (Arambula): Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program: Trauma Screening (Support)

Dear Ms. Kent:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on March 2, 2017 to take a Support recommendation on AB 340 (Arambula), a bill that would require that screening services under the EPSDT program include screening for trauma. AB 340 also would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in consultation with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to adopt, employ, and develop, as appropriate, tools and protocols for screening children for trauma.

CCLHO recognizes that decades of research show that adverse childhood experiences, including trauma, have a tremendous impact on future health. Given that clinicians would implement the screening in busy practices, CCLHO recommends that clinicians are included as part of the screening tools and protocols development team.

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 screening for trauma as part of the EPSDT program services is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of taking a leadership role in the practice of public health and policy development. It is further consistent with the legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect the health of 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,

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

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

cc: Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Public Health Officer, CDPH

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