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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: SB 746 (Portantino): Pupil Health: Physical Examinations (Oppose)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Semiannual Conference Business Meeting on May 3, 2017 to take an Oppose recommendation on SB 746 (Portantino), a bill that would authorize a doctor of chiropractic (DC), naturopathic doctor (ND), or nurse practitioner (NP) to perform a physical examination that is required for participation in an interscholastic athletic program. Current law specifies that when a school district requires a physical examination as a condition of athletic participation, the examination may be performed by a physician or surgeon or physician assistant.

CCLHO recognizes the good intentions to increase access to physical examinations for students seeking interscholastic athletic participation, especially given the primary care provider shortage. However, pre-participation examinations are an important time for screening for cardiac problems, for assessing growth and development, for identifying eating disorders, and for the counseling on athletic participation with complicated medical conditions such as asthma, hypertension, bleeding disorders, diabetes, etc. The examination recommended by multiple medical academies (AAP, AAFP, Academy of Sports Medicine, etc.) include detection of abnormalities of the lungs, heart, abdomen, lymph nodes, etc. in addition to musculoskeletal tests and not all practitioners allowed in the legislation have the scope of practice to perform the full range of tests. It is noted that nurse practitioners in many practice settings do have the skill sets mentioned above and CCLHO does not oppose their authorization.

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 oppose is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of providing scientific expertise on public health matters. It is further consistent with the legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect the health of all Californians.

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