

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA****DAS WILLIAMS**

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May 15, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D.

Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services

State Capitol, Room 5114

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes

Acting Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services

State Capitol, Room 2175

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: \$40 MILLION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION, TESTING, AND TREATMENT – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan and Assemblymember Gómez Reyes:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully urge your support for the Governor's May Revision proposal to provide \$40 million one-time General Fund to local health departments and tribal communities to assist in providing infectious disease prevention, testing and treatment services.

California's local health departments are statutorily mandated to prevent and control infectious diseases throughout the state, including over 80 reportable conditions, yet lack adequate resources to do so. State and federal funding for infectious disease control activities have declined considerably over time and are primarily siloed based on disease conditions.

Santa Barbara County works diligently to prevent and reduce community exposure to dangerous and potentially deadly illnesses within our jurisdiction, including over 80 reportable conditions. Local public health departments in California, including ours, play a unique and critical role in outbreak investigations and disease control in order to protect our residents' health and safety, a responsibility for which no other entity is accountable. California continues to be faced with staggering levels of infectious diseases, placing an enormous burden on the health of residents in our state. The Santa Barbara County is experiencing an alarming growth rate tuberculosis cases, including several with multi-drug resistance. In addition, our county has demonstrated increases in sexually transmitted infections with upsurges in numbers of syphilis and HIV.

The information above point to the significant need of additional local health department resources to investigate, prevent, and control additional transmission of infectious diseases experienced in our jurisdiction and as such we support the proposal included in the May Revision. As the details of the proposal are fleshed out, the County of Santa Barbara appreciates your consideration and support of the following recommendations:

Providing Lump Sum Funding with 4-Year Expenditure Authority. The County respectfully requests that the funding be provided to local jurisdictions in a lump sum amount with the authority to spend the funds over four years. This allows

the funding to be spread across more jurisdictions and maximizes the use of limited dollars most efficiently. For example, in the County, this upfront investment would allow our local public health department to take critical steps toward improving our public health infrastructure which is fundamental to preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases within our jurisdiction and within our state. This flexible funding stream would allow our jurisdiction to address current infrastructure gaps by helping the Santa Barbara's Public Health Department in multiple ways including the County's ability to perform health assessments of our county residents and to be able to address important issues and initiatives such as Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL), and other unfunded, but very important, outreach programs to promote healthy lifestyles and save costs in the medical system, as well as help fund programs targeted to support those with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or victims of human trafficking.

Flexibility. The Governor's proposal appears to provide flexible funding to treat all infectious diseases and is not siloed in nature. We encourage the Legislature to maintain the flexibility at the local level to utilize the funding to address the unique needs of our County, such as the increasing number of tuberculosis cases and sexually transmitted infections.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2019 Legislative Platform that includes the Health and Human Services Legislative Principle, which states that the County will support efforts to maintain and enhance safety net services that protect the most vulnerable within the community, as well as the Fiscal Stability Legislative Principle, which supports the generation of new intergovernmental revenue.

It is for these reasons that the County supports the May Revision proposal to provide \$40 million for infectious diseases to local health departments and tribal communities and respectfully urges your support of the proposal. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No 1
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS)
Adam Dorsey, Program Budget Manager, California Department of Finance (DOF)
Sonja Petek, Senior Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)
Michelle Gibbons, County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC)
Kat DeBurgh, Health Officers Association of California (HOAC)
The Honorable Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors