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May 16, 2024

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Akilah Weber, M.D.
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health
1021 O Street, Suite 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: REJECT – Governor’s Proposal to Eliminate \$300 Million Future of Public Health (FoPH)

Dear Senator Menjivar and Assemblymember Weber,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write to convey our strong opposition to the Governor’s May Revision budget proposal to eliminate the entire \$300 million ongoing General Fund Future of Public Health (FoPH) investment, including \$200 million dedicated to local health department workforce and infrastructure. We also express opposition to the elimination of \$52.5 million in Future of Public Health funds in the current fiscal year.

Solano County Health & Social Services, Solano Public Health serves as the first line of defense against all public health threats in our community. To carry out this key responsibility, we rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce. The public health workforce has faced significant challenges over the past several years responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including burnout and harassment by members of the public.

FoPH has provided Solano Public Health with ongoing funding to rebuild our workforce and infrastructure, including securing 20 positions. These positions provide additional staffing, including in the regional public health lab, which supports Napa, Yolo, Marin and Solano counties; for home visiting programs serving the perinatal population; in the Emergency Preparedness, Immunization and Communicable Disease Bureau (EPIC Bureau), continuing education and training to long term care facilities on how to reduce the spread of disease in these settings, as well as a Public Health Nurse and Communicable Disease Investigator, conducting street medicine and contact tracing and investigation on reportable diseases. Furthermore, the Health Equity Coordinator, also funded by FoPH, maintains, and further develops important partnerships with community-based organizations and managed care plans in Solano County—key partners during the pandemic.

These investments represent the very few initiatives dedicated to strengthening the governmental public health workforce and infrastructure of our state, and we are dismayed by the Administration’s proposal to eliminate these vital resources. As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our country and state has experienced the tragic impacts of understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments. California must continue to support the governmental public health workforce and ensure robust and capable public health departments.

Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Honorable Akila Weber, M.D.
May 16, 2024

It is for these reasons that our organization respectfully requests that your committee reject the Administration's proposed elimination of public health funding and maintain the ongoing \$300 million Future of Public Health investment.

Sincerely,



Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Elissa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Principal Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Rosielyn Pulmano, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency
Tomás Aragón, Director & State Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember
Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Jerry Huber, Director, Solano County Health and Social Services
Bela Matyas M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer, Solano County
Jayleen Richards, Public Health Administrator, Solano County
Paragon Government Relations
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.