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June 20, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ADOPT LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN FUNDING – Future of Public Health Workforce and Infrastructure Investment

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write to respectfully urge you and your Administration to adopt the Legislature's budget package which continues the ongoing \$300 million General Fund investment for state and local public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

The Solano County Department of Health & Social Services, Public Health division, 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.

Future of Public Health provides Solano Public Health ongoing funding to rebuild the workforce and infrastructure. With Future of Public Health funding, Solano Public Health secured 20 positions. These positions provide additional staffing for the regional public health lab, which supports Napa, Yolo, Marin and Solano counties; home visiting programs serving the perinatal population; the Emergency Preparedness, Immunization and Communicable Disease Bureau (EPIC Bureau), which provides 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 Future of Public Health, maintains, and further develops important partnerships with community-based organizations and managed care plans in Solano County—key partners during the pandemic and during the CalAIM implementation.

We must acknowledge the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially that state and local health departments are instrumental in protecting lives, ensuring health equity, and avoiding excess social and economic disruption. For example, in Solano County, we focused limited resources on protecting the most vulnerable populations, including populations in congregate living facilities. With Future of Public Health funding, we were able to continue this important work with long-term care facilities and other agencies to reduce to the spread of disease and save lives. Solano Public Health and the state's local health departments are the first line of defense against all public health threats and rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce to do this work.

Honorable Gavin Newsom
June 20, 2024

As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our county 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.

It is for these reasons that Solano County Health & Social Services, Solano Public Health urges you and your Administration to adopt the Legislature's budget package which continues the ongoing \$300 million General Fund investment for state and local public health workforce and infrastructure, including \$200 million to support local health departments.

Sincerely,



Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Joe Stephanshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health & Human Services Agency
Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Dept. of Public Health
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Angela Pontes, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom Honorable Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Marjorie Swartz, Policy Consultant, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore
Rosielyn Pulmano, Policy Consultant, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Elisa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Will Owens, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Gerald Huber, Director, Solano County Health and Social Services
Bela Matyas, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer, Solano County Health and Social Services
Jayleen Richards, Public Health Administrator, Solano County Health and Social Services
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