



March 12, 2019

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 388 (Limón): Alzheimer's disease  
As Introduced February 5, 2019 – SUPPORT  
Set for Hearing on March 19, 2019 – Assembly Health Committee

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, is pleased to SUPPORT AB 388 by Assembly Member Monique Limón, which would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to implement action agenda items of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Brain Initiative, coordinate a statewide public awareness campaign, and establish a pilot program to support county initiatives to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

According to the CDC, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, causing over 116,000 deaths in 2016. In California, 650,000 residents age 65 and older were estimated to be living with Alzheimer's Disease in 2018; by 2025, the Alzheimer's Association expects that number to rise to 840,000 Californians age 65 and over. Cognitive decline, ranging from mild cognitive impairment to dementia, can have significant implications for an individual's overall health and wellbeing.

The CDC Healthy Brain Initiative details a comprehensive, multidisciplinary path forward in promoting cognitive health, addressing cognitive impairment, and meeting needs of caregivers. The Initiative's action agenda items provide further guidance on risk identification and reduction, education and training, policy and partnership development, and monitoring and evaluation. By strengthening state and local public health capacity, developing partnerships, and integrating cognitive health into existing public health efforts, California can make progress in reducing risk for cognitive decline amongst our residents.

Local health departments support efforts to educate Californians about dementia, improve early dementia detection and timely diagnosis activities, and strengthen local public health capacity related to dementia. It is for these reasons that CHEAC supports AB 388.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

*As signed by*

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Monique Limón, Member, California State Assembly  
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Chief Consultant, Assembly Health Committee  
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus