



April 17, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D.  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 276 (Pan): Immunizations: medical exemptions  
As Amended April 9, 2019 – SUPPORT  
Set for Hearing on April 24, 2019 – Senate Health Committee

Dear Senator Pan:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, is pleased to SUPPORT your SB 276, which would establish a statewide model for the approval of immunization medical exemption requests.

Local health departments cannot overstate the importance of community immunity, which not only protects vaccinated individuals, but also those too young or with medical conditions that prevent them from being vaccinated. As such, CHEAC was pleased with the Legislature's passage of SB 277 in 2015, which removed the personal belief exemption for children attending public school or daycare.

However, medical exemptions in California have nearly tripled since the passage of SB 277 and the rates of medical exemptions in certain pockets of our state are as high as 20 percent. Despite these alarming increases in medical exemptions and a rise in vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, no mechanism currently exists to allow for a review of those medical exemptions.

SB 276 would ensure that physicians and surgeons are appropriately examining and assessing the risks of immunization to children in their care by having these providers complete a standardized immunization exemption form. These forms would be evaluated by the State Public Health Officer and placed into a database that local health officers may also access.

Local health departments strongly support efforts to ensure all children in California are appropriately immunized, thereby reducing the risk of the spread of communicable disease. It is for these reasons that CHEAC supports your SB 276.

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

Sincerely,

*As signed by*

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee  
Melanie Moreno, Consultant, Senate Health Committee  
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Tim Conaghan, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus