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June 17, 2019

The Honorable Buffy Wicks
State Capitol, Room 5160
Sacramento, CA 94814

RE: **HOAC Supports AB 1603**

Dear Assemblymember Wicks:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your AB 1603, related to the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program (CalVIP).

The CalVIP grant program, administered by the Board for State and Community Corrections (BSCC), provides competitive grants to cities and nonprofit organizations that implement evidence-based violence reduction initiatives in impacted communities. However, CalVIP has never been codified in statute. Taking this step while strengthening the program's requirements in important ways will provide clearer and more stable guidance to BSCC about how to focus CalVIP resources on the most effective programs in communities that are most heavily impacted by violence.

Public health aims to prevent all preventable death, disease, and injury. This is an important prevention measure that will keep Californians safe and healthy. Thank you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director