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June 17, 2019

The Honorable Luz Rivas
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: HOAC Supports AB 1702

Dear Assemblymember Rivas,

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 1702, relating to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council.

According to the 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report produced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on a single night in California, 129,927 individuals experienced homelessness. California accounted for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country in 2017. While the Golden State prides itself for being a national and international leader, a number one ranking for homelessness should indicate that we need a more comprehensive solution to this growing crisis.

HOAC supported the bill to create the council, and now supports this bill to fund it. Your bill takes three existing part-time positions at the Council and makes those full time positions, and adds an additional three positions for a total of six full-time positions. Furthermore, the bill requires the Council to provide the Legislature with a report on statutory changes that could be made to streamline the delivery of services and effectiveness of homelessness programs by 2021.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of all of California's residents; at our spring 2019 semiannual meeting in Petaluma, HOAC offered a day and half of Continuing Medical Education programs relating to homelessness and the role of the public health officer. We would like to thank you for this important proposal, and offer our strong support. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, I invite you to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director