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June 14, 2019

The Honorable Marc Levine  
State Capitol, Room 5135  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: HOAC Supports Assembly Bill 1718**

Dear Assemblymember Levine,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county local health jurisdictions, supports your AB 1718. This bill would prohibit the smoking and disposing of tobacco products at state beaches and units of the state park system. By discouraging tobacco use and limiting public exposure to secondhand smoke, AB 1718 will mitigate the harmful impacts of these products, which lead to a lifetime of health effects and come at a heavy cost to California's healthcare systems.

Despite its diminishing prevalence over the last decade, the use of tobacco continues to threaten public health and drain our state's healthcare resources. Considered to be one of the leading causes of preventable deaths in the United States, smoking places a heavy economic burden on California, costing our state billions in direct and indirect health expenses from smoking-related illnesses, premature deaths, and lost productivity.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents and believes AB 1718 would be a step forward for our state. 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".

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director