



March 16, 2020

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
State Capitol, P. O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0004

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RE: **HOAC Supports AB 1965**

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

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 1965, which would add the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to the list of treatments offered by the Family Planning, Access, and Treatment (Family PACT) program.

HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI). According to the CDC, almost every sexually active person will get HPV at some time in their life without HPV vaccination, and about 14 million Americans become infected annually. HPV is estimated to cause nearly 35,000 cases of cervical cancer a year; however, since the vaccine was approved in 2006, HPV infections have dropped significantly. The CDC says the vaccine can prevent as many as 93% of new cervical cancer cases through preventing new infections.

The Family PACT program offers 1.1 million low-income Californians access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare, including family planning services and STI treatment and prevention services at no cost to patients. While other STIs are treated—and Family PACT includes cervical cancer screenings—the program does not cover the one item that could prevent cervical cancer: the HPV vaccine. Your act would add include the HPV vaccine to Family PACT using federal matching funds that are already available under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 1115 Waiver.

Public health aims to prevent all preventable death, disease, and injury. AB 1965 is an important prevention measure that will keep Californians safe and healthy. Thank you for introducing it.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director