



March 18, 2021

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 263 (Bonta): Private detention facilities
As Amended March 17, 2021 – SUPPORT
Set for Hearing March 23, 2021 – Assembly Public Safety Committee

Dear Assembly Member Jones Sawyer:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) and the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing California's 61 county and city local health department physician health officers and health executives, are pleased to support AB 263 by Assembly Member Rob Bonta which would require a private detention facility operator to comply with and adhere to all local and state public health orders and occupational safety and health regulations.

California law recognizes the importance of protecting public health by empowering and requiring local health officers to take actions as necessary to prevent the spread of disease. As realized during the COVID-19 pandemic, outbreaks in congregate settings, including private detention facilities, pose significant risks to those residing in such settings, as well as the broader communities in which these facilities are located.

During public health emergencies, it is paramount that operators of private detention facilities comply with local and state public health orders and guidance to ensure the safety of detainees, employees, and the surrounding community. This measure confirms the ability of local health officials to take actions necessary to protect the public's health by clarifying that all private detention facilities in California, including those contracted by the federal government, must abide by public health orders and regulations.

For the above reasons, HOAC and CHEAC are pleased to support AB 263. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kat DeBurgh at deburgh@calhealthofficers.org or (916) 441-7405 or Michelle Gibbons at mjgibbons@cheac.org or (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

As signed by

As signed by

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director, HOAC

Michelle Gibbons
Executive Director, CHEAC

cc: The Honorable Rob Bonta, Member, California State Assembly
Honorable Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee
David Billingsley, Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus