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June 1, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HOAC Supports Assembly Bill 275 (Wood)

Dear Senator Hernandez:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports AB 275 (Wood). This bill would extend the notice and planning requirements that a long-term health care facility provides before closure or change in licensures status resulting in the inability to care for its patients.

Many areas in California have few long-term care facilities, and access to care remains a critical challenge. The closure of a long-term care facility can have a major impact on continuities, displacing patients and interrupting the continuity of care. Improving closure protections for residents of long-term care facilities, AB 275 will clarify the authority of the Department of Public Health to reject unsafe closure plans and require advanced notice to allow residents and communities to better prepare for closure.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents and believes AB 275 is 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 earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Jim Wood