



March 16, 2020

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez  
State Capitol, P. O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0052

RE: **HOAC Supports AB 3224**

Officers

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Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director

Dalia Navarro  
Operations Manager

Huntington Sharp  
Program Assistant

Dear Assemblymember Rodriguez:

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 3224, which would establish a statewide program to direct and support local health departments in providing services to individuals experiencing sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Between 2008 and 2018, the numbers of reported sexually transmitted disease (STD) cases in California increased by between 56% for chlamydia to 256% for syphilis. There is no simple solution to a problem with many underlying causes varying from county to county; however, local health departments' active engaged with clients, medical providers, and community partners make them uniquely qualified to control the spread of communicable diseases within their jurisdictions.

Your bill will create a statewide program so that local health departments can provide social needs assessments; routine contact with clients, including those who may be difficult to locate; coordination of referrals and connections to address health and social needs including behavioral health services, housing, homelessness assistance, and harm reduction counseling and services; routine follow up services, such as education and access to prevention and screening services; and ensure access to primary care physicians.

Public health aims to prevent all preventable death, disease, and injury. AB 3224 is an important prevention measure that will keep Californians healthy. Thank you for introducing it.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director