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June 14, 2019

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **HOAC Supports AB 340**

Dear Assemblymember Irwin:

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 340, related to removing weapons from prohibited individuals.

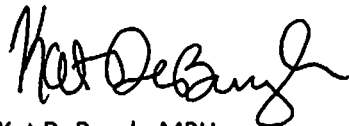
California's laws have reduced the rate of firearm-related deaths by 56% in the past 20 years; however, significantly more needs to be done to prevent gun violence from occurring. Since 2006, existing law has required the Attorney General to establish and maintain an online database known as the Prohibited Armed Persons File, sometimes referred to as the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS), to cross-reference persons who have ownership or possession of a firearm on or after January 1, 1996, and who, subsequent to the date of that ownership or possession of a firearm, fall within a class of persons who are prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm. Department of Justice special agents use the APPS to track, investigate, and disarm these individuals by conducting periodic sweeps.

However, there is a persistent backlog of more than 10,000 potentially armed individuals in the APPS. High vacancy rates and turnover among DOJ's team of special agents have prevented the Department from reducing the backlog as planned. Recent sweeps involving local authorities have shown the value of leveraging local officers who are best equipped to conduct such investigations because of their familiarity with their communities and the people who reside there. Your bill creates a pilot grant program in Ventura County to fund local law enforcement task forces that disarm prohibited persons within that jurisdiction. The grants would fund training and cover operational

costs of conducting investigations, and the jurisdiction would be required to submit a report detailing the use of funds and the efficacy of the program.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kat DeBurgh', written in a cursive style.

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director