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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HOAC Supports AB 377

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

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 377. We thank you for introducing this important bill, which enacts important public health protections in micro-enterprise home kitchen operations.

When your AB 626 was signed into law last year, it created the possibility for local governments to allow a new type of food facility based out of a private home. This bill is an important follow-up. First and foremost, the clarifies that the appropriate level of government to establish these operations is the county government, which oversees both public health and environmental health; or a city that has the required enforcement agency. The bill also codifies important changes recommended by local environmental health directors, who inspect food facilities and protect consumers every day. The bill contains provisions that ensure that animals are not present in the kitchen during food service hours, that only appropriate wooden surfaces are used for food contact, and enact numerous other changes vital to protect consumers.

AB 377 is an important step forward for California, and for jurisdictions that choose to establish micro-enterprise home kitchen operations. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh".

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director