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June 7, 2019

The Honorable Philip Ting  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **HOAC Supports AB 61**

Dear Assemblymember Ting:

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 61, related to gun violence restraining orders.

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. California has a strong law establishing gun violence restraining orders and limiting who may request them. AB 61 amends this law to enable an employer, a co-worker, or an employee of a high school or college to request the courts to issue a gun violence restraining order. If issued, this order would prevent a potentially dangerous person from having in their custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition.

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 that reads "Kat DeBurgh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director