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June 7, 2019

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
State Capitol, Room 5119
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **HOAC Supports AB 645**

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 645, which will post the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on new signs in gun shops, on the existing labels on gun packaging, and on the firearm safety certification exam.

Although there is a strong connection between firearms and suicide, crucial and lifesaving information is currently not found at any point during the process of obtaining a firearm or after a firearm is brought home.

Public health aims to prevent all preventable death, disease, and injury. Your bill's goal – to reduce firearm suicides by making a lifesaving resource readily available for individuals in crisis – is in alignment with public health's aims. 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