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March 19, 2019

The Honorable William Monning
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HOAC Supports Senate Bill 347

Dear Senator Monning:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers in California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your SB 347. This bill would improve community health by enabling consumers to make better informed purchasing decisions by requiring health warning labels on sugar-sweetened beverages.

The prevalence of obesity and its associated health problems in the United States has increased dramatically in the last 30 years. Today, nearly 40 percent of our state's children are either overweight or obese – the highest in history. Drinking just one sugary beverage per day increases the likelihood of a child becoming overweight by 55 percent. In addition to being the single largest cause of childhood obesity, sodas and other sugary drinks are major contributors to diabetes and tooth decay, all of which annually cost our state billions of dollars in health care and lost productivity.

We can all agree that parents have the responsibility to make educated and informed dietary choices for themselves and their families; however, making these healthier decisions requires reliable information to be made readily available. SB 347 would foster an environment that bolsters the ability of consumers to make smarter decisions to improve the overall health of themselves and their families.

Thank you for introducing SB 347. Let's make the health choice the easy choice.

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