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June 4, 2019

The Honorable Connie M. Leyva
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **HOAC Supports SB 301**

Dear Senator Leyva:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your SB 301, related to sustainable funding for the Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (Family PACT) Program.

This Title X national family planning program provides funding for family planning centers, sets standards of care, and fills gaps in services and coverage. A September 2016 Guttmacher Institute Fact Sheet states that the contraceptive services provided help individuals avoid unintended and unwanted pregnancies, unplanned births, and abortions that might follow. Publicly supported family planning visits also include screenings for STIs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and HIV; cervical cancer prevention services, including Pap tests and testing and vaccination for human papillomavirus (HPV); and other key preventive care services, all of which have their own health benefits. Collectively, these family planning services yield substantial government savings—\$13.6 billion nationally in 2010, or \$7.09 for every public dollar spent.

As changes in our federal policies seem to be occurring at a more rapid and drastic pace, California must do all it can to ensure access to quality family planning services. Public health officers are particularly concerned with ensuring and advancing health care access for low-income and uninsured Californians; prioritizing health outcomes for greater impact in diverse communities across the state; and collaborating on community health issues with valued partners providing cost-effective and needed services.

Thank you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director