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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, MD, MPH
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: HOAC Supports Senate Bill 428

Dear Senator Pan,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers in California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports SB 428 (Pan), implementing requirements for much-needed youth mental health interventions.

Childhood trauma can have lasting consequences well into adulthood. The health and mental health outcomes stemming from adverse childhood experiences have been documented by California's own surgeon general, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, in her book *The Deepest Well* and in her work at the state level. As with many other health events, immediate action can be critical. And there are tools to help children work through and learn to overcome traumatic experiences.

SB 428 would require local education agencies to implement an evidence-based training program, helping staff to help students through these critical times.

Thank you for introducing this important bill. We expect the timely mental health solutions proposed under this bill to prevent illness, and to pave the way for healing and success for students across California.

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