



Officers

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President
Alameda County

July 26, 2017

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
President-Elect
City of Berkeley

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Wilma J. Wooten, MD, MPH
Past President
San Diego County

RE: HOAC Supports Senate Bill 442 (Newman)

Nichole Quick, MD, MPH
Treasurer
Yuba County

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez-Fletcher:

Eric G. Handler, MD, MPH
Secretary
Orange County

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers in California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports SB 442 (Newman), which has been referred to your committee. This bill would strengthen the California Pool Safety Act to better protect the safety of young children by ensuring that residential pools have adequate safety features.

Directors at Large

Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc
Yolo County (retired)

Residential pool drownings and near-drownings remain a leading cause of death, injury, and hospitalization for California's youngest residents. Preventing young children from entering a pool without the knowledge or supervision of a guardian is a key strategy in reducing occurrences of childhood pool drownings, near-drownings, and injuries.

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH
Solano County

Kenneth Cutler, MD, MPH
Nevada County

The California Pool Safety Act signed into law in 1996 requires pool owners to have at least one approved safety barrier to keep young children from accessing the pool without supervision. While this act was a step forward in the fight to prevent childhood pool deaths and injuries, it is clear that requiring only one pool barrier is often inadequate – gates can be left open or unlocked, alarms can be disabled, and pool covers can be removed. SB 442 would update these safety requirements to ensure that residential pools have a second safety barrier to protect young children.

Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH
Riverside County

Claudia Jonah, MD
Kern County

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA
Placer County

Karen I. Relucio, MD
Napa County

Public health aims to prevent unnecessary deaths and injuries. HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents and believes SB 442 would be a step forward for our state. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, I invite you to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sara Cody, MD
Santa Clara County

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH
Alameda County (Retired)

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

Staff Members

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

Dalia Navarro
Office Manager

cc: The Honorable Josh Newman

Brandon Roberts
Legislative Assistant