



Officers

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH  
President  
Alameda County

July 27, 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 598 (Hueso)**

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 of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports SB 598 (Hueso). This bill would reduce disconnections of utility services for nonpayment by residential customers and prohibit disconnections for those living with certain life-threatening medical conditions.

Directors at Large

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

Electricity, gas, and other utility services are essential to a healthy living environment. Home to some of the country's most expensive housing markets, many Californian households struggling to afford housing are also struggling to pay for other basic essentials, like heat and light, and face having these services interrupted as a result. Utility shutoffs are a shortsighted debt recovery tactic that harms the health of our state's most vulnerable. These shutoffs can lead to worsening medical conditions, housing displacement, increased threats to safety, and other hardships. By reducing the occurrence of utility shutoffs, SB 598 will protect the health and safety of our communities.

Bela T. Matyas, MD, MPH  
Solano County

Kenneth Cutler, MD, MPH  
Nevada County

Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH  
Riverside County

Claudia Jonah, MD  
Kern County

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA  
Placer County

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents and believes SB 598 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.

Karen I. Relucio, MD  
Napa County

Sara Cody, MD  
Santa Clara County

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH  
Alameda County (Retired)

Staff Members

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Ben Hueso

Dalia Navarro  
Office Manager

Brandon Roberts  
Legislative Assistant