

# TEHAMA COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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May 22, 2024

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar  
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health & Human Services  
1021 O Street, Suite 6720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Akilah Weber, M.D.  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health  
1021 O Street, Suite 4130  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Reject Governor's Proposal to Eliminate \$300 Million Future of Public Health (FoPH)

Dear Senator Menjivar and Assembly Member Weber:

Tehama County Health Services Agency writes to strongly oppose the Governor's May Revision budget proposal to eliminate the entire \$300 million ongoing General Fund Future of Public Health investment, including \$200 million dedicated to local health department workforce and infrastructure. We also express opposition to the elimination of \$52.5 million in Future of Public Health funds in the current fiscal year.

Tehama County Health Services Agency serves as the first line of defense against all public health threats in our community. To carry out this key responsibility, we rely on a highly skilled and specialized workforce. The public health workforce has faced significant challenges over the past several years responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including burnout and harassment by members of the public. During COVID-19 we had to redirect all nurses and ancillary staff to focus only on COVID-19. We then had to reach out to other sections of our agency to get more ancillary staffing, increased use of extra help nurses, retired nurses, LVN's from local registry, state redirected staff, and National Guard staff to accomplish case investigations, testing, and immunization services in our county. Without the extra staff that came to us or worked remotely with us we wouldn't have been able to provide the services we offered to our community during the pandemic.

Future of Public Health provided Tehama County Health Services Agency ongoing funding to rebuild our workforce and infrastructure. Only one nurse has been able to be hired, as several of the positions are new to our county structure. The funds were being used to improve the internal infrastructure of public health; to focus our efforts from an equity lens; assist with completing Community Health Assessment (CHA), working on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to move toward accreditation and has led to intensive community engagement and outreach; to establish surveillance systems to mitigate disease outbreaks and performance measurement systems for multiple programs in our county.

These investments represent the very few initiatives dedicated to strengthening the governmental public health workforce and infrastructure of our state, and we are dismayed by the Administration's proposal to eliminate these vital resources.

As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, our country and state has experienced the tragic impacts of understaffed and under-resourced local public health departments. California must continue to support the governmental public health workforce and ensure robust and capable public health departments.

It is for these reasons that our organization respectfully requests that your committee reject the Administration's proposed elimination of public health funding and maintain the ongoing \$300 million Future of Public Health investment.

Respectfully,

Jayne S. Bottke, Executive Director  
Tehama County Health Services Agency

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee  
Scott Ogus, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Elissa Wynne, Staff Director, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Marjorie Swartz, Principal Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore  
Christian Griffith, Chief Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker  
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus  
Eric Dietz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of Finance

Mark Ghaly, Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency

Tomás Aragón, Director & State Public Health Officer, Department of Public Health

Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of  
California