



County Executive  
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and  
Legislative Officer  
Elisia De Bord

County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
Phillip R. Serna, District 1  
Patrick Kennedy, District 2  
Rich Desmond, District 3  
Sue Frost, District 4  
Patrick Hume, District 5

May 13, 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**

Dear Senator Menjivar and Assembly Member Weber:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write to 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 oppose the elimination of \$52.5 million in Future of Public Health funds in the current fiscal year.

Sacramento County 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. At the start of the COVID pandemic response, the Communicable Disease Control Unit consisted of three full time employees of public health nurses and two administrative supports. As the number of calls from hospitals and the public increased, the team was quickly overwhelmed, and it took time to train new people as funding was made available. This slowed down the ability to conduct contact tracing at a critical time. In addition, when the vaccine was first made available, the immunization team of five nurses was not able to fulfill the need for large scale vaccination clinics, and we depended heavily on medical volunteers to ramp up and meet the demand for vaccinations.

Future of Public Health provided Sacramento County with ongoing funding to rebuild our workforce and infrastructure. We focused efforts to bolster the infrastructure and recruited 10 public health nursing positions for the Communicable Disease Control, Immunization and Field Nursing Units; two epidemiologists; two microbiologists; and several administrative and management positions for a total of 40 new positions. This boost in staffing enabled us to be well-prepared to manage the ensuing Mpox epidemic and measles exposures. The additional positions also enabled us to create a Health and Racial equity Unit that focused on addressing health disparities and inequities. We have also been able to embark on workforce development initiatives to improve recruitment and retention and prepare our workforce to plan for and adequately address public health threats to our community.

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These investments represent a few initiatives dedicated to strengthening the governmental public health workforce and infrastructure of our state. California must continue to support the governmental public health workforce and ensure robust and capable public health departments.

For these reasons, Sacramento County 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. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elisia De Bord". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink stamp or highlight behind it.

Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee  
Sacramento County Delegation  
Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
Michelle Gibbons, County Health Executives Association of California