



April 18, 2019

The Honorable Richard Pan, M.D.
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: \$50 Million for Local Health Department Communicable Disease Infrastructure – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan:

The California Tuberculosis Controllers Association (CTCA) respectfully requests your support of a continuous appropriation of \$50 million General Fund beginning in FY 2019-20 to improve local health department infrastructure to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.

CTCA works diligently to eliminate the threat of tuberculosis (TB) from California through leadership and the development of excellence in TB prevention and treatment. To carry out this work, CTCA employs three strategies, 1) advising health organizations and professional societies on TB prevention and treatment goals, standards, priorities and research, in partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) TB Control Branch (TBCB) and as an affiliate of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), Communicable Disease Control and Prevention (CD) Committee, 2) promoting professional education and interchange of experiences among persons actively engaged in TB control and prevention activities, promoting uniform standards and practices, and improving communication between local health jurisdictions (LHJs) through guidelines development, an annual educational conferences and a biannual TB Controllers Meeting and by 3) promoting awareness of the need for active, ongoing TB prevention and treatment .

This investment would allow California's local health departments to take critical steps toward improving our public health infrastructure which is fundamental to preventing and controlling the spread of infectious diseases. This flexible funding stream would allow jurisdictions to address current infrastructure gaps by *bolstering staffing capacity, increasing workforce development and training, expanding public health clinic services, delivering provider outreach and education, enhancing current disease investigation, tracing, and surveillance activities, etc.*

We respectfully urge your support of this continuous appropriation of \$50 million General Fund to improve local health department infrastructure to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.

Sincerely,

April King-Todd, RN, BSN, MPH, President, California Tuberculosis Controllers Association

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director, County Health Executives Association of California
Kat DeBurgh, Executive Director, Health Officers Association of California