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April 7, 2023

The Honorable James Gallagher
1021 O Street, Suite 4740
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1075 (Gallagher) State of emergency: Governor's powers and termination
- OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember James Gallagher,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, is dedicated to protecting the health of all Californians and opposes AB 1075 as it would limit the Governor's authority to declare a state of emergency.

Emergency powers are designed to give the Governor the ability to act quickly and decisively in response to an emergency, without being hindered by the legislative process. As we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, immediate action was required to protect public health and safety, and provide minimum protections for all Californians, regardless of the county they live in. Although California's legislature also played a critical role in response to the most recent pandemic, the Governor's actions and quick decision-making in the initial stages of this crisis saved lives. As COVID-19 quickly spread its way throughout the world, our understanding of the virus developed and adapted, requiring quick action on the Governor's part. If this bill were in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many more Californians would have lost their lives.

For these reasons, HOAC opposes AB 1075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kat DeBurgh'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California