



May 15, 2023

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The Honorable Aguiar-Curry  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 659 (Aguiar-Curry) Cancer Prevention Act - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your AB 659 which will require health plans to cover the human papillomavirus (HPV), and state that it is the public policy of California to expect students to be vaccinated against HPV.

HPV is a very common virus, and many people will contract it at some point in their lives. Most people who contract HPV will not experience any symptoms and will clear the infection on their own without any medication intervention. However, in some cases, HPV will lead to the development of health problems, including genital warts and most cases of cervical cancer, as well as many cases of other cancers such as vaginal, vulvar, penile, and oropharyngeal cancer. The HPV vaccine is a safe way to guard against cancer and negative health problems caused by contracting HPV. The vaccine has been approved by regulatory agencies around the world after being subjected to rigorous testing and evaluation for safety and efficacy.

It is important that children are vaccinated before they become sexually active as the vaccine is most effective when given before an individual is exposed to HPV. Additionally, the immune response to the vaccine is stronger and more long-lasting when it is given at a younger age.

AB 659 reflects a core function of public health, which is to prevent disease and improve the health of communities by encouraging families to take an easy, early step to protect their children from negative health outcomes they make experience later in life. For these reasons, HOAC supports AB 659 and thanks you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director  
Health Officers Association of California