



Officers

Nancy Williams, MD, MPH
President
El Dorado County

Gail Newel, MD, MPH
President-Elect
Santa Cruz County

Karen Relucio, MD
Past-President
Napa County

Claudia Jonah, MD
Treasurer
Kern County (retired)

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH
Secretary
Stanislaus County

Directors at Large

Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc
Yolo County (retired)

Cameron Kaiser, MD, MPH
Riverside County (retired)

Robert Oldham, MD, MSHA
Placer County

Robert Benjamin, MD, MPH
City of Berkeley (retired)

Dave Canton, DO, MPH, JD
Merced County (retired)

Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH
Shasta County

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH
City of Long Beach

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH
Yolo County

Eric Sergienko, MD, MPH
Mariposa County

Staff

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director

Dalia Navarro
Director of Operations

Isabella Argueta
Legislative Analyst

Hilary Peery
Meeting Planner

May 11, 2023

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 5140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 626 (Rubio) Smoking tobacco in the workplace: transient lodging establishments – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Rubio,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California’s sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your SB 626 which would protect workers from secondhand smoke by removing the outdated exemption allowing smoking in a portion of hotel and motel rooms.

Health officers protect public health in their communities through disease prevention, emergency preparedness, health education and promotion, regulating environmental hazards, and advocating for programs that promote health equity. Extensive research has demonstrated for decades that smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke are unsafe and can have significant negative health effects. According to the CDC, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke contains many of the same harmful chemicals as the smoke inhaled by the smoker, and can cause a range of negative health outcomes, including lung cancer, heart disease, and respiratory diseases.

Each Californian deserves to work in a safe, healthy, and supportive environment. SB 626 will help improve air quality, reduce the risk of fire, and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, helping to create a healthier environment for guests and staff. For these reasons, HOAC supports SB 626 and thanks you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California