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February 27, 2025

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, LOB Suite 390
Sacramento, CA 94249-0018

RE: AB 396 (Tangipa) - Oppose

Dear Chair Bonta,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers in California’s sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, opposes AB 396 as it imposes unnecessary administrative burdens on syringe services programs (SSPs) and adds enforcement responsibilities to health officers.

Health officers and SSPs are essential partners in the shared mission of protecting public health and preventing the spread of disease. SSPs play a vital role in disease prevention, reducing the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other diseases of public health concern. These programs also provide critical mutual aid and access to health care for vulnerable populations.

The onerous tracking requirements and penalties for improperly discarded syringes proposed in AB 396 would divert resources away from public health efforts and toward administrative compliance.

For this reason, we urge you to cast a “no” vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California