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April 10, 2025

Assemblymember Mia Bonta, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1129 (Rodriguez) Birth Anomaly Monitoring – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bonta,

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions. We write today to express our support for AB 1129. AB 1129 aims to enhance the state's birth defects monitoring system by authorizing local health officers to collect and monitor birth anomalies.

This bill would allow, but not require, local health officers (LHOs) to make birth anomalies reportable in their jurisdictions and to monitor those conditions. While protecting patient privacy, assuring access to these data when appropriate would improve our awareness of these conditions and allow early intervention in the factors that contribute to birth anomalies. These data could also be used to inform policy to deliver equitable maternal and child health care statewide. For these reasons, HOAC respectfully requests your aye vote on AB 1129.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California