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April 10, 2025

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 228 (Sanchez) – Epinephrine Delivery Systems – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wicks,

On behalf of the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, we write today in support of AB 228 (Sanchez).

Anaphylaxis can happen within minutes when a person is stung by a bee, ingests food such as shellfish or nuts, or comes into contact with something as simple as latex. Reactions can be severe or even fatal without prompt use of epinephrine. Public health aims to prevent preventable death, disease, and injury. This means access to emergency anaphylaxis treatment in public school settings is a public health issue. AB 228 will help make public school campuses safer for children with food allergies by increasing access to epinephrine.

Additionally, this bill would replace references to "epinephrine auto-injectors" in the Educational Code with "United State Food and Drug Administration approved epinephrine delivery systems" allowing schools to meet their statutory duty to provide emergency medical treatment with new and emerging less-invasive modalities of epinephrine administration.

HOAC supports the common-sense bill to expand access to epinephrine and prevent lethal episodes of anaphylaxis in public schools. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California