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April 11, 2025

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1020 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 993 (Hadwick) Rural CUPA Reimbursement Account – 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 993. This bill would make all California counties with populations less than 150,000 residents eligible for the existing Rural Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) reimbursement account and increase the maximum annual award to account for inflation.

These funds strengthen the ability of rural counties to safeguard public health by preventing and responding to local hazardous waste and hazardous materials emergencies; ensuring first responders are aware of the dangerous chemicals and substances stored in the buildings throughout the communities they protect; and helping prevent storage tank leaks that may contaminate land and drinking water supplies. These problems are more profound for smaller rural jurisdictions that may have less access to medical care.

HOAC supports this common-sense bill that will further empower local jurisdictions to safeguard the health and well-being of their communities. For these reasons, we respectfully request your aye vote. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kat DeBurgh, MPH
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California