



March 26, 2025

The Honorable Anamarie Ávila Farías
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6140
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 933 (Ávila Farías): Organized Residential Camps: Organized Day Camps
As Introduced February 19, 2025 – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Ávila Farías:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), and the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), respectfully OPPOSE your AB 933.

While we commend your goal to increase oversight of children’s day camps, we believe, and have long advocated that, placing this responsibility with local health departments that exist to protect communities from public health threats, including but not limited to infectious diseases, climate-related illness, and chronic disease, is an inappropriate assignment. We have instead advocated that children’s day camps in California should be regulated by an agency with the applicable training and expertise in child supervision and safety. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is well suited to lead this process given their expertise in regulating facilities that provide care to children, including childcare facilities and children’s residential care facilities.

Last legislative session, our organizations enthusiastically supported AB 262/Holden (Chapter 341, Statutes of 2024), which sets out a process, led by CDSS, to engage with other relevant state agencies, such as the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education, as well as stakeholders such as parent advocate groups, local parks departments, and local public health and environmental health departments, among others, to gather information and develop recommendations to establish child supervision requirements, physical facility standards, and camp licensure and regulatory requirements, among others. We believe this process will identify the appropriate agencies and/or entities, with applicable expertise and resources, to ensure children’s safety and supervision when attending these day camps.

We would note that some children’s camps, such as YMCA programs, are currently licensed by CDSS as a childcare facility, yet have sought licensure as a recreational camp (day camp) during school breaks. Proponents of expanding current organized camps statute to include day camps have argued that they are “unwilling to sacrifice their existing relationships with county health inspectors”; however, they continue to disregard the central issue of how to ensure child safety.

Local health departments play a critical role in protecting our communities from public health threats. Local health department responsibilities include infectious disease control and prevention, food safety, environmental health, laboratory services, emergency preparedness, and chronic disease prevention and

health promotion. Our current responsibilities and expertise do not include enforcing appropriate child supervision and safety measures.

We have significant concerns about vastly expanding local health department responsibilities beyond the scope of our expertise and do not believe this proposed oversight structure puts the safety of children first. Additionally, we continue to strongly support the stakeholder process as signed into law last year, which will bring entities with specialized expertise together to develop a workable regulatory framework. AB 933 would circumvent this thoughtful and reasonable stakeholder process designed to ensure the safety of all children participating in children's camps.

It is for these reasons that we must respectfully oppose AB 933.

Sincerely,



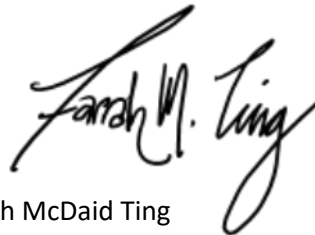
Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties
(CSAC)



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Urban Counties of California (UCC)



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
(RCRC)



Farrah McDaid Ting
Deputy Director of Policy
County Health Executives Association of
California (CHEAC)



Kat DeBurgh
Executive Director
Health Officers Association of California
(HOAC)