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April 17, 2026

The Honorable Akilah Weber Pierson
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1377 (Jones) — Oppose

Dear Senator Weber Pierson,

The Health Officers Association of California, which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, opposes SB 1377 (Jones).

Current law establishes a standardized, statewide medical exemption review framework (SB 276, Pan, 2019) to ensure that exemptions to school immunization requirements are issued appropriately and consistently. That framework provides necessary oversight, helps prevent misuse, and protects public health—particularly for vulnerable populations who rely on high vaccination rates.

This bill would dismantle those safeguards by eliminating the standardized exemption process, removing state oversight, and limiting the ability of public health authorities to review or act on questionable exemptions. It would also significantly restrict accountability for physicians issuing exemptions, even in cases that raise serious concerns.

We continue to support maintaining the existing system, which strikes an appropriate balance between allowing legitimate medical exemptions and protecting community health.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabella Argueta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Isabella Argueta
Director of Legislation
Health Officers Association of California