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April 21, 2026

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 936 (Blakespear) Nitrous oxide – Support

Dear Chair Cervantes,

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 are pleased to support SB 936 (Blakespear) to address the rise of nitrous oxide misuse in California.

Nitrous oxide products are being widely sold and increasingly misused for intoxication. In 2025, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration advised consumers not to inhale nitrous oxide products due to the risk of severe adverse health events, including neurologic injury, vitamin B12 deficiency, asphyxiation, and death.

While existing California law includes restrictions related to nitrous oxide misuse and sales to minors, large canisters, flavored products, and inhalation-enabling devices remain readily available in the retail marketplace. SB 936 responds by restricting

- Nitrous oxide containers larger than 8 grams
- Containers from which an individual may directly inhale, and
- Nitrous oxide that has, or is marketed as having, the taste or smell of food.

These products also create practical disposal and safety challenges for local agencies because pressurized canisters require special handling and are not accepted by some household hazardous waste programs.

Local jurisdictions have also acted to address these impacts, reflecting the need for a consistent statewide standard.

For these reasons, HOAC appreciates Senator Blakespear’s leadership on this important issue and respectfully urges your support for SB 936.

Sincerely,

Isabella Argueta
Director of Legislation
Health Officers Association of California