



April 12, 2018

The Honorable Travis Allen  
State Capitol, Room 4208  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Opposition to AB 2668**

Dear Assemblymember Allen:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC) and the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), which represents the physician health officers and local health departments of California's sixty-one city and county health jurisdictions, must respectfully oppose your AB 2668. This bill creates a grant program that provides an incentive for families to keep their children unvaccinated. Furthermore, by exempting private schools from statewide immunization requirements, this bill will create "hot spots" of decreased immunity in our state, which will lead to an increase in communicable disease.

Individuals who are too young to be vaccinated, or who have a medical condition that prevents them from being vaccinated, rely on those around them to keep disease at bay by maintaining community immunity. The decision not to immunize a child for a non-medical reason risks the health of the community, and can be particularly detrimental - even fatal - to newborns, infants, toddlers, and those living with immune-compromising conditions. Schools are where our children go to learn, and we want schools to be healthy and safe for all pupils. Therefore, it is important to require that children who attend either public or private schools in California be immunized, unless they have a medical exemption.

Our organizations are dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of California's residents. AB 2668 creates an unnecessary and dangerous exemption to our state's school immunization requirements, which is why we must oppose the bill. Should you have any questions regarding our position on this matter, please feel free to contact Kat DeBurgh at (916) 441-7405 or Michelle Gibbons at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh".

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director, HOAC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Gibbons".

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director, CHEAC