

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Chris Holden  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Opposition to AB 1737 (Holden)—Children’s camps: local registration and inspections**

Dear Assemblymember Holden,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I respectfully oppose AB 1737. The City agrees with the goal to create an oversight and enforcement structure for children’s camps. However, AB 1737 falls short of that goal by placing responsibility with local health departments that exist to protect communities from public health threats not children’s camps.

We encourage consideration of assigning responsibility for children’s camps to an agency with appropriate experience in the oversight of entities with children in their care, such as the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The CDSS Community Care Licensing Division’s mission is to promote health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care through the administration of an effective and collaborative regulatory enforcement system. This division licenses various facilities that provide care to children and vulnerable adults, including childcare facilities and children’s residential facilities.

Discussions about the oversight responsibility for camps should consider the current CDSS infrastructure, which has three main components: prevention, compliance, and enforcement. Prevention reduces the predictable harm to children by providing an orientation prior to licensure, performing background checks, maintaining staffing requirements, and health screenings. Compliance ensures childcare facilities operate in accordance with existing laws and is maintained through unannounced facility inspections, complaint investigations, issuing deficiency notices, and education. Lastly, enforcement takes place when the entity fails to protect the health, safety, and personal rights of children in care or is unwilling to maintain compliance with laws.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the critical role local health departments play to protect our communities from public health threats. Responsibilities of local health departments include infectious disease control and prevention, food safety, environmental health, laboratory services, emergency preparedness, and chronic disease prevention and health promotion. However, the City has concerns about expanding local health department responsibilities beyond the scope of its expertise and does not believe this proposed oversight structure puts the safety of children first.

For these reasons, the City opposes AB 1737.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA  
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District

