



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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June 22, 2023

The Honorable Akilah Weber
1021 O Street, Suite 4130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1057 (Weber): California Home Visiting Program
As Introduced February 15, 2023 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Weber:

Mendocino County writes in support of AB 1057, which would grant local health departments flexibility to administer the California Home Visiting Program (CHVP) to meet the unique needs of our communities equitably.

Specifically, the bill would authorize local health departments to:

1. Use any of the evidence-based models approved by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program;
2. Utilize an alternative public health nursing model submitted to and approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and
3. Authorize local health departments to supplement their home visiting program with mental health supports.

The flexibility to implement additional models and/or to submit a public health nurse model for CDPH's approval will allow the County of Mendocino's Public Health Department to expand the reach and impact of the county's home visiting program at a time of mounting need.

CHVP is designed for overburdened families at risk for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including child maltreatment, domestic violence, substance use disorder, and mental health-related issues. CHVP is a preventive intervention focused on promoting positive parenting and child development. The evidence-based models permitted under the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early

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Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) target different ages, races, and ethnicities and are administered using other staffing models. We support local health departments having the flexibility to administer any of the federal evidence-based models approved for MIECHV or an alternative model approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to address the needs of their community.

Further, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a growing need to support the mental health of Mendocino County's families. According to CDPH, one in five California women experience symptoms of depression during or after pregnancy. Additionally, Black and Latina women, women who have low incomes, or those who experienced hardships in their childhood or during pregnancy are at heightened risk of having symptoms of depression. Home visiting programs are uniquely positioned to reach new parents and families during the perinatal period when they are vulnerable to maternal mental health disorders and early childhood. Therefore, these programs must have the flexibility to supplement the program with mental health support for their families.

AB 1057 gives local health departments additional tools to better meet the needs of the families and children served by CHVP. It is for these reasons that Mendocino County supports AB 1057.

Respectfully,



Glenn McGourty, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors