

April 27, 2021

Via Email

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849, Room 2179
Sacramento, CA 94249-0066

SUBJECT: Notice of Support for AB 1251

Dear Assembly Member Muratsuchi:

The City of Palos Verdes Estates supports Assembly Bill 1251, which would require Los Angeles County Health Officials to factor in local transmission data when developing restrictions and reopening plans.

Los Angeles County, being comparable to the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined, is the largest populated County in the United States, and larger in population than 41 individual states. As you are aware, due to the large size of L.A. County (4,300 square miles), the Department of Public Health divides the county into eight geographic Service Planning Areas (SPAs) to develop and provide more relevant public health and clinical services targeted to the specific health needs of the residents in these different areas. Despite this, the County has imposed the same COVID-19 restrictions across the region, regardless of local transmission rates.

Assembly Bill 1251 would require public health orders issued by the County of Los Angeles health officer to be based on data for each service planning area, rather than on countywide data. The bill would further require that any local public health orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic be issued in accordance with the service planning area data. By requiring the County of Los Angeles to prepare emergency local public health orders based on data for each service planning area, this bill ensures that public health services and orders are based on the specific needs of residents in the respective service planning areas and not on data for the entire County of Los Angeles.

While the City appreciates the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's leadership and efforts to protect and support residents during this unprecedented public health crisis, a "one size fits all health officer orders" does not support a long-term approach to the well-being of our collective community. The City supports the intent of AB 1252, which further amplifies the importance of a decentralized approach to the pandemic response, given the vast size of L.A. County. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and, for these reasons, the City of Palos Verdes Estates supports AB 1251.

Sincerely,

Michael Kemps
Mayor

cc: Ben Allen, Senator, 26th State Senate District
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities
Marcel Rodarte, California Contract Cities Association
Jacki Bacharach, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Palos Verdes Estates City Council
Laura Guglielmo, City Manager