



November 9, 2020

Chair:

We appreciate your county's participation in our recent North State Leaders conference held in Red Bluff, California.

In that forum we shared our respective data and localized information on how COVID-19 and the response to the virus have impacted our counties. A common thread in the discussion was the need to have local flexibility based on what is occurring in our respective communities, which have not been well-served by the state's one-size-fits-all *Blueprint for a Safer Economy*.

The *Blueprint* largely impacts small businesses and schools without any showing that those environments have anything to do with the cases observed in our counties. Meanwhile, we have documented increases drug abuse, delayed medical care, depression among our youth, and the overall need for mental health services. We are extremely concerned about the impacts to our children of any further delays to in-person education.

These facts demonstrate a need for collective and unified action from our counties. Consistent with our discussion at the North State Leaders conference, we ask that your respective boards approve a *Healthy Communities Resolution* expressing agreement with the following principles:

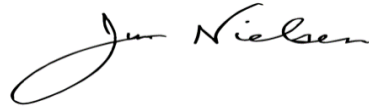
1. That our county is best served by an ability to respond locally to the COVID-19 virus in accordance with our local data and circumstances, as specified, for instance, in the attestation filed with the California Department of Public Health.
2. That our county is geographically diverse and ill-suited for the county-wide restrictions imposed by the *Blueprint*, and the State should enable our COVID-19 response to be tailored to geographically separate areas, such as different zip codes, as circumstances and case levels warrant.
3. That school districts in our jurisdiction are urged to safely open all schools as soon as possible and provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible without further delay.
4. That our county requests an extension of time beyond December 31, 2020 to encumber and spend our federal CARES funds, to which we are entitled by law, consistent with our respective local plans and programs.

Attached you will find draft resolution language. Thank you again for your partnership and participation in the North State Leaders conference.

Sincerely,



JAMES GALLAGHER
Assemblymember, 3rd District



JIM NIELSEN
Senator, District 4



KEVIN KILEY
Assemblymember, 6th District



BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, District 1



MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblymember, 1st District