



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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May 8, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1964 (Maienschein): Organized camps
As Introduced January 30, 2018 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

San Benito County regretfully has taken an OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED position on AB 1964 by Assembly Member Brian Maienschein. AB 1964 would expand the definition of organized camps to include day camps, creating a new mandate on local health departments.

San Benito County appreciates the intent of the bill to assure that day camps provide a safe environment for children; however, we do not believe this bill as written will fully accomplish this goal. Our existing oversights of organized camps are already overly broad and require local health departments to operate beyond their scope of expertise related to health and sanitation. AB 1964 would further exacerbate these issues by adding – according to the proponents – roughly 700 additional day camps statewide to be under the oversight of the local health department.

Under this measure the local health department would to be the sole oversight body of an organized camp, now including day camps, and would oversee areas such as building standards and childcare-like safety standards. Whereas a daycare currently has to comply with a myriad of standards set in place to ensure the child's well-being, with the Department of Social Services utilizing their expertise as the oversight entity, day camps would not have the same safeguards in place.

Should the bill move forward, San Benito County would like to the role of local health departments limited to overseeing the health and sanitation aspects of a day camp. It is for these reasons that San Benito County regretfully must oppose AB 1964 unless amended and urges your 'NO' vote on the measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dulce Alonso at (831) 636-400.

Sincerely,

Anthony Botelho
Chair of the Board
San Benito County

cc: The Honorable Brian Maienschein,
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Paula Villescaz, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Peter Anderson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Leticia Perez, President of California State Association of Counties