November 6 2026

The Honorable Monique Limon
Chair, Senate Committee of Appropriations
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 69 - Support If Amended

Dear Chairperson Limon and Senate Appropriations Committee members,

We are writing on behalf of the California Medical and Nurses Associations to declare that our organization would proudly support this bill, if it is amended.

SB 69: Warehouse Clean Air Act would establish statewide air pollution requirements for large warehouses operating in California, intending to reduce emissions associated with diesel truck traffic and improve air quality in surrounding communities.

The bill outlines the following: warehouses measuring 100,000 square feet or more would be subject to annual compliance requirements based on their truck traffic, beginning under standards established by the California Air Resources Board by January 1, 2028. Warehouses could satisfy these requirements through zero-emission equipment, electric truck charging stations, solar panels, air filtration systems, vegetation buffers, or mitigation payments into a newly established Community Air Fund.

Furthermore, at least 60% of the Community Air Fund's annual expenditures would be directed toward communities within the highest 25% of pollution burden under CalEnviroScreen. The bill would also allocate $5 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, including $1 million for establishing the statewide standard and supporting local air districts, and $4 million for the Community Air Fund.

Air pollution associated with warehouse operations is incredibly pertinent to California's healthcare system, particularly in communities experiencing significant diesel truck traffic. Exposure to particulate pollution can contribute to respiratory illnesses and worsen existing conditions, including asthma, creating additional healthcare concerns for residents living near large warehouse facilities.

In a 2024 study titled *Impact of Warehouse Expansion on Ambient PM2.5 and Elemental Carbon Levels in Southern California's Disadvantaged Communities: A Two-Decade Analysis*, Binyu Yang et al. investigated the relationship between warehouse development and air pollution across Southern California between 2000 and 2019.

The researchers examined approximately 10,937 warehouses using satellite-derived pollution estimates and statistical models accounting for demographic characteristics. They found that increases in warehouse building area, loading docks, and parking spaces were associated with higher concentrations of fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, and elemental carbon, a component associated with diesel emissions.

Specifically, an interquartile-range increase in warehouse building area was associated with an increase of approximately 0.16 micrograms per cubic meter in PM2.5 concentrations, while a comparable increase in parking spaces was associated with an increase of approximately 0.21 micrograms per cubic meter. The researchers also identified higher pollution burdens among disadvantaged communities. These findings demonstrate the relationship between warehouse development and local air pollution, although the study did not directly measure patient health outcomes or evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed legislation.

The California Medical Association and California Nurses Association support SB 69's proposed measures, but would respectfully request amendments establishing clearer environmental performance requirements and ensuring that community healthcare programs are appropriately implemented.

Although Section 2 allows warehouses to satisfy annual requirements through several methods, including mitigation payments, it does not explicitly require that each compliance method produce measurable reductions in pollution exposure. We respectfully request that the California Air Resources Board establish appropriate performance standards and reporting requirements to evaluate whether participating warehouses are effectively reducing emissions and improving surrounding air quality.

Furthermore, Section 3 authorizes Community Air Fund expenditures for asthma screenings, but does not specify how these services would be administered. We respectfully request that asthma screenings be conducted through qualified healthcare professionals and participating community health organizations, with appropriate referral procedures for individuals requiring further evaluation or treatment.

Additionally, Section 5 assumes that the program will become financially self-sustaining through mitigation payments and administrative fees after its first full year of collections. We respectfully request that the bill establish an annual financial evaluation to determine whether these revenues are sufficient to maintain the program, including enforcement activities, community projects, and eligible healthcare-related services.

These amendments would improve accountability for the proposed funding, ensure that participating healthcare professionals can appropriately serve affected communities, and strengthen the effectiveness of the legislation's pollution reduction measures.

The California Medical Association and California Nurses Association strongly urge you to amend and support SB 69.

Sincerely,



Damien Purisima (He/him) - Lobbyist
California Medical and Nurses Associations