



September 16, 2015

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The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 266 (Bonta, Cooley, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey & Wood) – Medical Marijuana
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties® (CSAC), I write to respectfully request your signature on AB 266, jointly authored by Assembly Members Rob Bonta, Ken Cooley, Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Tom Lackey and Jim Wood. AB 266 is one of the three-bills passed by the Legislature that addresses the regulation of medical marijuana.

For California's counties, the issue of medical marijuana regulation is of great importance. Since the passage of Proposition 215, The Compassionate Use Act of 1996, and the Medical Marijuana Program Act of 2003, counties continue to face various uncertainties with the implementation of these measures and regulation of the legal and illegal usage of medical marijuana.

AB 266 would create a regulatory framework for the medical marijuana industry that would require state and local licenses for medical marijuana businesses. It would also establish a new Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation that would oversee this multiagency licensing and regulatory effort, relying on expertise from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Public Health. AB 266 also includes a number of detailed provisions concerning enforcement, licensure, packaging/labeling and reporting. Of particular importance to counties are the provisions in AB 266 that would:

- Protect existing local authority for law enforcement activity, enforcement of local zoning requirements or local ordinances, or enforcement of local permit or licensing agreements.
- Allow local governments to adopt ordinances establishing additional standards, requirements, and regulations for local licenses and permits for commercial cannabis activity.
- Retain the power of local jurisdictions to assess fees and taxes on licensed facilities and the business activities of those licensees.
- Allow a county to impose a tax on each delivery transaction.
- Ensure that it would not interfere with an employer's rights to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace.

The passage of the three-bill medical marijuana legislative package is a historic achievement, and we truly appreciate the work of the Administration, the authors and their staff on this collaborative effort. We believe that together the three-bill package provides for a much needed statewide regulatory framework that also respects the interests of local government.

It is for these reasons that we support AB 266 and respectfully request your signature of this important measure. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Keene at 327-7500, ext. 511 or kkeene@counties.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Matt Cate
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Rob Bonta, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Ken Cooley, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Tom Lackey, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Jim Wood, Member of the Assembly
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Member of the Senate
Ms. Graciela Castillo-Krings, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office