

**DATE**

The Honorable Lisa Calderon  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2137  
Sacramento CA, 95814

**RE: AB 619 (Calderon) – Lung Health – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Calderon:

On behalf of [Organization], I am writing in support of AB 619 (Calderon), which would require the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to conduct provider awareness for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and require counties to include provisions in the next iteration of their emergency plan that address the adverse effects of wildfire smoke on lung health.

Conducting provider awareness relating to COPD will promote early diagnosis and prevention of the disease among Californians. COPD does not have a cure, so treating those with COPD early is essential in managing their symptoms and lung health. Along with improving individual health outcomes, COPD provider awareness will help mitigate the pressure on California's hospitals as they work to manage the surge of COVID-19 patients. The underdiagnosis of COPD drives unnecessary high rates of ER visits and hospital admissions for uncontrolled flare-ups.

In addition, the bill responds to the increasing threat that wildfire smoke has on public health, and in particular, lung health. Recently we have seen longer wildfire seasons with larger, more intense, and more destructive wildfires. As wildfires become more severe, they present a greater threat to the health of all Californians. However, there is no local authority tasked with taking the lead on informing the public about the health threat posed by wildfire air pollution. This has led to examples of conflicting guidance provided to the public by a city and the county in which it is located. Accurate and clear guidance is especially critical for those whose health is most at risk when exposed to wildfire smoke, namely seniors, children, and those with existing chronic lung conditions like COPD and asthma. Requiring counties to include provisions to plan for the impacts of wildfire smoke in their emergency plans will protect the lung health of vulnerable Californians by ensuring they have the resources and information to protect themselves against the increasing threat posed by wildfires.

We are proud to support AB 619 (Calderon) and thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

**Name**

**Title**

CC: The Honorable Members of the Assembly Health Committee  
Rosielyn Pulmano, Assembly Health Committee Chief Consultant  
Assembly Republican Caucus