[letter to be placed on your organization's letterhead]

Date

Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman

Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services

Legislative Office Building - Room 502

Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula

Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services

1021 O Street, Suite 8230

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Invest in the California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund**

Dear Senator Eggman and Assemblymember Dr. Arambula,

[Your organization], strongly supports a budget request of at least $100 million in ongoing annual funding to establish a California Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund.

[insert text on your organization]

The Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund is a bold and historic idea to fund community-based organizations, clinics and tribal organizations (CBOs) to identify and meet local needs in areas including food security, environmental justice, restorative justice, community safety, and more. CBOs are fluent in every language spoken in California, understand their communities’ needs, and can tailor effective solutions to local conditions. They are essential members of California’s public health workforce.

CBOs have played vital roles in containing COVID-19 by identifying local barriers to testing and vaccination and serving as trusted messengers in their communities. They also understand the community conditions that are driving the inequitable health and social impacts of the pandemic and importantly, they know how to implement productive solutions that work at the local level. Yet, for far too long, CBOs’ efforts have been constrained by inadequate, inflexible, and inconsistent funding which prevents them from taking successful policies or programs to scale or initiating new ones to address emerging issues.

Supporters of the Fund represent every area of our state and come from every policy area including education, environmental justice, health care, labor, and business. We believe there needs to be an ongoing, direct source of funds to CBOs for health equity and racial justice innovation projects

Last year, the Legislature strongly supported investing in the Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund. They recognized that we are all public health; we all have a role to play; and we reach the most people when CBOs, clinics, and tribal organizations are fully funded and working together with local partners. In another year of historic budget surplus, I urge you to include at least $100 million in annual funding to the Health Equity and Racial Justice Fund to support CBOs as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the health and well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Org]

CC: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 3 on Health and Human Services

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Assembly Budget Subcommittee 1 on Health and Human Services

Assembly Budget Committee

Assemblymember Mike Gipson