

# Joint Legislative Budget Committee

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
GABRIEL PETEK

CHAIR

**NANCY SKINNER**

### SENATE

JOSH BECKER  
BRIAN DAHLE  
MARÍA ELENA DURAZO  
SUSAN TALAMANTES EGGMAN  
ROGER W. NIELLO  
STEPHEN C. PADILLA  
RICHARD D. ROTH

VICE CHAIR

**PHILIP Y. TING**

### ASSEMBLY

STEVE BENNETT  
MIA BONTA  
WENDY CARRILLO  
VINCE FONG  
KEVIN MCCARTY  
JIM PATTERSON  
Dr. AKILAH WEBER

September 8, 2023

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director  
Department of Finance  
1021 O Street, Suite 3110  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Stephenshaw:

In a letter dated August 29, 2023, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to Control Section 28.00 in the *2022-23 Budget Act*, of a request from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to increase federal fund expenditure authority by \$275,000,000. The additional authority will allow DPH to reimburse local health departments for work performed in 2022-23 that increased immunization rates in communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. The letter seeks a waiver from the 30-day legislative review period because the federal government requires all funds to be encumbered by September 28, 2023.

In March 2021, DPH received \$357 million from the Centers for Disease Control as part of the Immunizations and Vaccines for Children Grant program. Additional spending authority was granted in 2021-22, but due to a miscalculation, a large portion of the expenditures were disencumbered. In the meantime, local agencies submitted final invoices at the end of the 2022 calendar year. As a result, the department needs to reestablish spending authority in order to pay outstanding obligations. Moving forward, I recommend the department review its accounting procedures to ensure errors like this are avoided in the future.

In conclusion, I have reviewed the change in spending authority and believe it is aligned with the requirements of Section 28.00 and concur with the request. To ensure DPH can liquidate the funds by the federal deadline of September 28, 2023, I waive the remainder of the 30-day review period.

Sincerely,



Nancy Skinner  
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee