

CHAIR

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

SENATE

PATRICIA C. BATES
WILLIAM W. MONNING
JIM NIELSEN
RICHARD PAN
ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
NANCY SKINNER
VACANT

Joint Legislative Budget Committee

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
GABRIEL PETEK

VICE CHAIR

PHILIP Y. TING

ASSEMBLY

Dr. JOAQUIN ARAMBULA
RICHARD BLOOM
KEVIN MCCARTY
MELISSA A. MELENDEZ
JAY OBERNOLTE
LUZ RIVAS
SHIRLEY N. WEBER

March 23, 2020

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler, Director
Department of Finance
Room 1145, State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Bosler:

In a letter dated March 20, 2020, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC), pursuant to Section 36.00, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020, of your intention to augment the *2019 Budget Act* to assist local governments in protecting the health and safety of the public and reducing the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Specifically, Item 4265-001-0001 is augmented by \$31,420,000 for the Department of Public Health to expand the state's hospital capacity and the capacity at the Department's Richmond laboratory. In addition, Item 4120-001-0001 is augmented by \$10,647,000 for the Emergency Medical Services Authority for the purchase and refurbishment of ventilators, the purchase of IV fusion pumps, and an expanded contract for patient transportation services.

Given the severity of the COVID-19 crisis, I concur with the spending request. However, I would like to request that the Department of Finance provide the JLBC with copies of the operator contracts for St. Vincent's Medical Center and Seton Medical Center, and status reports about the funded activities to understand the specific use of the funds, benefit from the expenditure and any ongoing or impending challenges.

Finally, I urge the Administration to develop a strategy for future surge capacity needs and a long-term plan for how any procured health facilities would fit into that strategy.

Ms. Keely Martin Bosler

2

March 23, 2020

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Holly J. Mitchell
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee