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June 30, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the California State Legislature:

As health professionals engaged in a wide range of disciplines and practices, we write to express our strong opposition to California Senate Bill SB-556 and Assembly Bill AB-537, which purport to facilitate more widespread internet access through broadband connections. However, a closer reading of the bills reveals that they do nothing to guarantee reliable and affordable access for underserved communities. Instead, by severely limiting the ability of local governments to oversee and adequately regulate the deployment of wireless infrastructure in their communities, they endanger the health and safety of millions of Californians.

The science regarding radiofrequency (RF) radiation and human health has seen extensive and important progress in the past several years. In one of the most significant studies to date, the National Toxicology Program, a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), **proved** that exposure to RF radiation from cell phones causes cancer, a finding that completely debunked the prevailing theory that non-ionizing radiation could only cause heating of tissue. A subsequent study conducted by the renowned Ramazzini Institute in Italy, and funded in part by the NIH, showed the same results from RF radiation emitted from distant antennas – similar to the kind of wireless infrastructure promoted by SB-556 and AB-537.

Both of these studies, and the thousands of academic peer-reviewed independent studies that precede them, clearly demonstrate that current Federal Communications Commission RF radiation human exposure guidelines, which were established in 1996, are outdated and insufficient to protect human health.

Scientifically documented harm from exposure to RF radiation includes reproductive and neurological harm, cardiovascular problems, and immune system damage. Acute symptoms of radiation sickness include a wide range of symptoms that can be debilitating, including headaches, insomnia, fatigue, heart palpitations, difficulty concentrating, memory loss, and nausea.

Instead of fast-tracking the deployment of wireless infrastructure in close proximity to residential dwellings and schools, we urge the legislature to support the expansion of fiber-optic broadband connections to and through the premises throughout the State. Fiber-optic connections are superior to wireless in every way, providing faster, safer, secure, more reliable, and more affordable internet access. Small cell wireless facilities/antennas installed in residential areas will subject people to constant high levels of RF radiation exposure in their homes, substantially increasing the risk of adverse health outcomes.

In conclusion, because of the growing body of peer-reviewed, independent scientific research showing significant biological harm from both short-term and long-term exposure to RF radiation emitted by wireless devices and wireless infrastructure, including the wireless facilities/antennas streamlined by SB-556 and AB-537, and because there are no studies demonstrating that RF radiation is safe for humans, we urge you to vote no on SB-556 and AB-537.

Sincerely,