

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments



June 26, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia Aguilar-Curry,
Chair Assembly Local Gov't Commission
Room 157, 1020 N Street Sacramento,
CA 95814

RE: SB 649 (Hueso) – Small Cell Wireless Facilities - - OPPOSE

Dear Chair Aguilar-Curry:

I am a Professor of Public Health at the University of San Francisco and a Board Member of the national Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments. I am very concerned about moving forward with expanding the use of small-scale wireless technologies at the same time that there is mounting evidence of the potential for health risks from the associated radio frequency energy and radiation, particularly to children. The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments ascribes to the precautionary principle as it applies to human health. We firmly believe that early warnings in the scientific literature should be heeded and that our policy development should reflect the synthesis of the best and latest scientific evidence.

At this point in time, we oppose SB 649 and believe that we need an exhaustive review of the science before we allow significant expansion of small cell wireless facilities, such as those to facilitate 5G networks. The results of the literature review should inform our policies. We must be sure that vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and young children will not be unduly harmed from their proximity to unnecessary radio frequency energy. It is important that we continue to examine what constitutes a safe distance and how we can continue to pivot when more information becomes available. We are concerned that the passage of SB 649 will entrench us in a policy for which we have insufficient assurances and which, if passed, will require the burden of effort to reverse.

For these reasons, we oppose SB 649 and urge a “no” vote in the Local Government Committee.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sattler, RN, MPH, DrPH, FAAN
Board Member