



December 6, 2017

RE: Reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program

Dear California Congressional Delegation,

The undersigned associations representing California’s counties and the critical services provided at the county level urge you to immediately reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The failure to reauthorize this bipartisan program in a timely manner has created financial uncertainty for California and a number of other states, and may impact the provision of critical health care services to children in our state.

Presently, California’s program continues to operate, providing CHIP funding to eligible children through Medi-Cal. Unless Congress reauthorizes CHIP soon, the state will be forced to assume the cost of coverage for over two million children.

As you draft a final bill, there are several considerations that also affect counties. First, we strongly oppose the House bill’s provisions to use the Prevention and Public Health Fund as a primary funding source for CHIP services. Counties, the state and non-profit entities depend on the Fund to promote and protect the health of their communities. It is bad policy to essentially cannibalize Fund programs, which help keep our communities healthy, to fund another critical health program such as CHIP. We also oppose the House provision shortening the grace period from 90 to 30 days for individuals who have not made a health insurance premium payment. While we hope that our state would continue to maintain a grace period longer than 30 days, if it does not do so, those individuals who become uninsured under this proposal will become the responsibility of the county safety net.

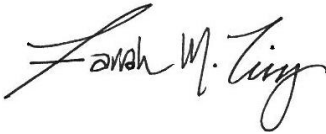
We support the House bill’s provision to delay by two years the cuts to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payments (DSH). While our state has dramatically reduced the number of uninsured individuals in the state through the Affordable Care Act, the DSH program continues to be critical source of financial support for our county health systems and public hospitals, who continue to serve the most uninsured residents in the state.

We urge you to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft a bipartisan CHIP reauthorization bill.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this critical fiscal and policy matter.

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Sincerely,



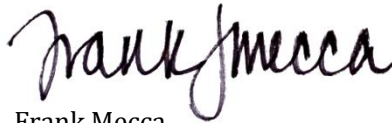
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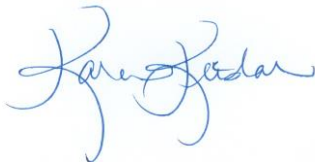
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cc Secretary Diana Dooley, California Health and Human Services Agency
Director Jennifer Kent, California Department of Health Care Services
Director Will Lightbourne, California Department of Social Services
Kristin Shelton, Budget Program Manager, California Department of Finance
Scott Bain, Senate Health Committee
Rosielyn "Roz" Pulmano, Assembly Health Committee
Ben Johnson, California Legislative Analyst's Office