



**CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS**

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**COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

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**COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA**

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**COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM**

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**COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

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March 22, 2017

Dear California Congressional Delegation:

The undersigned California county associations strongly oppose the American Health Care Act (AHCA). If enacted, the bill would shift billions of dollars in costs to counties and reverse the significant progress our state has made in providing health care coverage to millions of our residents.

Among our numerous concerns are the following:

- The bill eliminates the Medicaid expansion in 2020, which has enabled counties to cover 3.7 million new individuals in Medi-Cal;
- The measure places a per-capita cap on federal Medicaid spending, ending the federal state and county partnership that has lasted 50 years and penalizing our state’s efforts to keep costs low through managed care and low provider rates;
- The legislation institutes a number of administrative changes to Medicaid that would make it more difficult to maintain health coverage;
- The AHCA eliminates the enhanced federal match California uses to ensure persons with disabilities and older Americans are able to stay in their homes with In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS); and,
- The bill ends the \$90 million a year the state has received under the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which is used by local health departments to invest in public health prevention activities protecting all Californians.

Since the enactment of the Affordable Care Act, the state’s uninsured rate has been cut by nearly two-thirds - - to 7.1 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last week’s Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate confirms our deep concern that the bill would seriously harm the residents of our state. According to CBO, over the next ten years:

- 14 million fewer individuals would be insured through Medicaid -- a reduction of roughly 17 percent relative to the number projected under current law;

- Federal contributions to Medicaid would be cut by 25 percent (\$880 billion); and,
- The national safety net of public hospitals and health systems, including county systems, would be under further stress with 14 million more people uninsured next year, rising to 24 million by 2026.

Finally, the Manager's Amendment to be considered in the House Rules Committee would further erode health coverage for low income families. Providing states with the options to select a Medicaid block grant and/or require work for coverage would shift even more costs to states and increase the uninsured rate. For these reasons, we urge you to vote 'no' on the American Health Care Act.

Sincerely,



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California State Association of Counties  
(CSAC)



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