



Date: May 31, 2018

To: The Honorable Philip Y. Ting,
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members
Budget Conference Committee

From: Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director

Re: Health Care Coverage Expansion Proposals - SUPPORT

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) respectfully requests your support for the health care coverage expansion proposals noted below:

HHS 27 – Medi-Cal Eligibility for Young Adults – SUPPORT ASSEMBLY VERSION

CHEAC supports the ASSEMBLY version, which provides \$125 million General Fund in 2018-19 and \$250 million General Fund ongoing to increase Medi-Cal eligibility, regardless of immigration status, to age 26.

HHS 28 – Medi-Cal Eligibility for Seniors – SUPPORT SENATE VERSION

CHEAC supports the SENATE version, which provides \$75 million General Fund in FY 2018-19 and \$150 million General Fund ongoing to increase Medi-Cal eligibility, regardless of immigration status, for individuals 65 years and older.

California's uninsured rate is at a historic low of 6.8 percent due to California's proactive implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has expanded health coverage to an additional 7 million Californians. In 2015, California made a critical investment to provide comprehensive full-scope Medi-Cal to all children ages 19 and under, regardless of where they were born. However, federal law explicitly excludes undocumented immigrants from receiving health coverage through Medi-Cal, and from selecting a health plan or receiving subsidies for Covered California. As a result, undocumented adults are still left without comprehensive health care. Of the nearly three million uninsured Californians, 58 percent are undocumented adults who are locked out of health care access due to their immigration status. These proposals expand coverage for young adults and seniors who would be otherwise eligible but for their immigration status.

These investments bring California closer to ensuring that every Californian has comprehensive, affordable, and accessible care. It is for these reasons that we respectfully urge your support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

cc: Andrea Margolis, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Cyndi Hillery, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Peter Anderson, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Scott Ogus, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3
Kirk Feely, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Anthony Archie, Senate Republican Fiscal Office