



May 6, 2019

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes  
Acting Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health & Human Services  
State Capitol, Room 2175  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Medi-Cal Benefits for Postpartum Women Member/Stakeholder Proposal – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), representing local health departments throughout our state, is pleased to SUPPORT the proposed investment by Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) to allow an individual to stay on Medi-Cal for up to one year following the last day of the individual's pregnancy if diagnosed with an eligible maternal mental health condition.

The weeks following birth are a demanding time for women and their babies and set the stage for their long-term health and well-being. However, postpartum depression can threaten the health of both mother and child during this critical period. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the incidence of postpartum depression in California was 12.8 percent in 2018. ACOG recently noted that "postpartum care should become an ongoing process...with services and support tailored to each woman's individual need."

A wealth of research has shown that not treating or delaying seeking care for medical conditions, including depression, can result in considerable costs associated with emergent medical care, absenteeism from work, and productivity losses. Given that nearly 50 percent of all births in California are paid for by the Medi-Cal program, this proposal is a targeted investment in California mothers who may be most likely to suffer from postpartum depression.

It is for these reasons that CHEAC supports this proposed investment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

Sincerely,

*As signed by*

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Member, California State Assembly  
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus