



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: Asthma Prevention in Medi-Cal 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 of \$15 million General Fund ongoing by the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN), Children Now, and Regional Asthma Management & Prevention to provide specified asthma preventive services as a Medi-Cal covered benefit.

Asthma is a significant public health problem and driver of health care costs. According to a recent report issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), nearly three million people in the state have asthma, and over one in five are considered to have very poorly controlled asthma. Beginning in January 2014, the federal Medicaid program allowed states to reimburse for asthma preventive services that are recommended by a physician and provided by non-licensed professionals.

CDPH's report on asthma, based on statewide surveillance data, found that prevention efforts could reduce many of the poor outcomes for those in the state with asthma, and could reduce the enormous costs to our healthcare system caused by those with the condition. This proposed investment specifically would allow for preventive services, such as the proper use of medications and education on actions to mitigate or control environmental exposures or triggers, to be provided to Medi-Cal enrollees with asthma.

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

Sincerely,

*As signed by*

Michelle Gibbons  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1  
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Cyndi Hillery, Budget Director, Assembly Republican Caucus