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May 14, 2019

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
PO Box 997377, MS 0500
Sacramento, California 95899-7377

Re: AB 4 (Bonta): Medi-Cal: eligibility

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on April 4, 2019 to take a Support recommendation on AB 4 (Bonta), a bill that would extend eligibility for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits to individuals of all ages, if otherwise eligible for those benefits, but for their immigration status, and would delete provisions delaying eligibility and enrollment until the director makes the determination as specified.

Under current law, low-income undocumented adults are eligible for emergency-only Medi-Cal and pregnancy care but not for primary or preventive care offered through full-scope Medi-Cal. Doctor visits, hospital care, and prescription drugs are not covered. People who have cancer or asthma, for example, can't receive needed health services. Though some California counties provide some care to undocumented adults through their safety-net systems, many do not. AB 4 removes a barrier to health access due to immigration status and brings California closer to ensuring that every Californian has comprehensive, affordable, and accessible care. This measure will provide Medi-Cal benefits to low-income undocumented adults whose incomes are at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This means that an undocumented adult in a single-person household would be eligible and enrolled if their income is \$16,754 or less. For these reasons, CCLHO recommends Support for AB 4.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by email at roidham@placer.ca.gov or by phone at (530) 745-3121. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Oldham, MD, MSHA
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers