



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

June 23, 2020

The Honorable Chris Holden
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1994 (Holden) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Holden:

The County of San Bernardino is please to support AB 1994 which would align state and federal law by prohibiting the termination of Medi-Cal eligibility for “eligible juveniles” and also extend the Medi-Cal benefit suspension period for all inmates from one year to three years.

Due to changes in federal law made in 2018 by HR 6, known as the "SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act," juveniles who are inmates of public institutions can no longer have Medicaid eligibility terminated. HR 6 defined "juveniles" as individuals either under 21 years of age and/or former foster youth up to 26 years of age. This federal change means the one year state law limit for Medi-Cal benefit suspension must be conformed to federal law for this population.

Under current state law, Medi-Cal beneficiaries who become incarcerated have their benefits suspended for one year or until they are released, whichever comes first. For those incarcerated for less than one year, coverage is reinstated by DHCS upon release. Anyone over the age of 18 years who is incarcerated for longer than one year has their Medi-Cal coverage terminated.

Suspension of Medi-Cal coverage allows an inmate to retain eligibility status for Medi-Cal but prohibits receipt of benefits during incarceration. Termination removes an individual from the state’s Medi-Cal database and requires an individual to re-apply for benefits after release from jail or prison. Placing an individual in suspended status rather than terminating benefits prior to release, will avoid unnecessary workload, reduce gaps in health care and ensure that individuals are eligible for critical health services upon release. Continuity of care is crucial in promoting positive health

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outcomes, reducing recidivism and ensuring the successful reintegration of people into their communities. Further, ensuring uninterrupted care will reduce the demand for intensive, costly health care services in the future.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 1994. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation