



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair, Budget Conference Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip Ting
Co-Chair, Budget Conference Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Graduate Medical Evaluation Payment Program – Support Senate Version

Dear Senator Mitchell and Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, I am writing in support of the Senate version of the budget trailer bill related to Graduate Medical Education (GME).

The state's proposed GME program would provide critical federal funding for California and support public health care systems' safety net mission and commitment to medical education. California is one of only 8 states that does not currently provide support for GME through the Medicaid program, despite having the second largest number of teaching hospitals and residents in the country. Approving the Senate version of the GME trailer bill language would provide the necessary state authorization to move forward with this program, at no cost to the State General Fund.

However, we oppose the amendment to the GME trailer bill language in the Assembly version of the budget that would require all public health care systems to contract with all Medi-Cal Managed Care plans in order to receive GME funding. This provision has the potential to place core safety net providers, such as Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, at significant disadvantage in plan/provider negotiations. This provision is also unnecessary because it ignores the existing contracting requirements in the state's 1115 Medicaid waiver, which requires public health care systems to contract with at least one Medi-Cal plan in their county.

For the above reasons, we are requesting the committee adopt the Senate version of the trailer bill language on GME. Should you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at 909 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: Members and Consultants, Budget Conference Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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