



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

August 17, 2011

The Honorable Edward Hernandez
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 335 (Hernandez)** – As amended August 15, 2011 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Hernandez:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 335. This legislation builds on previously enacted legislation, which imposes a quality assurance fee on certain general acute care hospitals and uses revenue to provide supplemental payments for certain services to private hospitals, nondesignated public hospitals and designated public hospitals.

SB 335 would extend the provisions of AB 1653 until December 31, 2013, imposing a quality assurance fee will make it possible to draw down additional federal funds, provide supplemental payments to private hospitals in fee-for-service Medi-Cal, Medi-Cal managed care and direct grants to County and University of California hospitals in support of health care expenditures.

As you know, one of the greatest challenges that California's safety net hospitals continue to face is the significant underpayment received in support of care provided to their Medi-Cal patients. California's Medi-Cal reimbursement rates are among the worst in the country and disproportionately impact children's hospitals. This bill provides for the ongoing mechanism for improving Medi-Cal reimbursement for hospital health care services at no cost to the State.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports SB 335. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director at (909) 387-4281.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors