



March 23, 2020

Dr. Brad Gilbert
Director, California Department of Health Care Services
California Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4000, P.O. Box 997413
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

RE: Request for Emergency Medicaid 1115 Waiver Extension

Dear Dr. Gilbert,

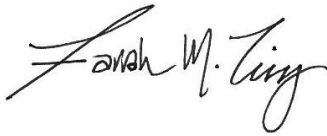
On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), and the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH), we are writing today to request consideration of an extension of the vital Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver (Section 1115 Medicaid waiver).

Our members, like your department, are diverting nearly all resources to meet the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. As this crisis grows in scale, our associations recognize the extreme impact on our members' ability to continue to engage and respond to ongoing federal, state and local discussions about planned system redesign in an insightful and meaningful way. It has also become clear that the vital services we currently operate under the authority of the Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver – Whole Person Care, PRIME, DMC-ODS, essential public hospital funding, and others – are critical for clients, patients and the general public in this time of uncertainty. Because of this, we respectfully request the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) formally petition the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Congress for at least a one-year extension of the Medi-Cal 2020 waiver.

Our organizations have been working closely with your staff in preparation to transition a number of key components from previous demonstration waivers under the CalAIM initiative. Now it is clear that the coronavirus emergency will disrupt much of this process, while at the same time, the future of our upcoming 2020-21 state budget is also extremely uncertain.

Our organizations appreciate the investments and effort in anticipating an 1115 waiver renewal, and the CalAIM process, and stand ready to continue to streamline and improve Medi-Cal services – once the dust from the current crisis settles. For now, we ask for your partnership and action to request an extension of all components of the current Medi-Cal 2020 for California.

Thank you,



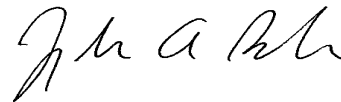
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cc: The Honorable Richard Pan, Chair, Senate Health Committee
Honorable Jim Wood, Chair, Assembly Health Committee
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Vice Chair, Assembly Health Committee
The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
The Honorable Devon Mathis, Vice Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
The Honorable Melissa Hurtado, Chair, Senate Human Services Committee
The Honorable Ken Cooley, Chair, Assembly Foster Care Committee
Richard Figueroa Jr., Governor's Office
Tam Ma, Governor's Office
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Paula Villescaz, Deputy Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
John Connolly, Deputy Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Marjorie Swartz, Principal Consultant, Office of Senate pro Tem Atkins
Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Agnes Lee, Policy Consultant, Speaker's Office of Policy
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Scott Bain, Assembly Health Committee

Kimberly Chen, Senate Health Committee
Jacey Cooper, Medicaid Director, Department of Health Care Services