

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

June 3, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518 Sacramento,
CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330 Sacramento,
CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230 Sacramento,
CA 95814

The Honorable Jessie Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230 Sacramento,
CA 95814

The Honorable Akila Weber Pierson
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7310 Sacramento,
CA 95814

The Honorable Mia Bonta
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 390 Sacramento, CA
95814

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Subcommittee 3 on Health
– Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 6630 Sacramento,
CA 95814

The Honorable Dawn Addis
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee
No. 1 on Health
1021 O Street, Suite 4120 Sacramento,
CA 95814

**RE: Proposed Service Shift from Medi-Cal Managed Care to Fee-For-Service (May Revise) -
OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly and Senate Leadership,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong opposition to the Governor's proposal in the May Revise that would shift Medi-Cal beneficiaries with unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS), including qualified non-citizens, from managed care into the fee-for-service (FFS) delivery system. The Governor's proposed change effectively shifts responsibility from the State onto counties and local jurisdictions, placing additional strain on our local systems that are obligated under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code to provide indigent care. This policy change would have severe and far-reaching implications for the residents of Kern County and would undermine years of progress made in strengthening access,

care coordination, and community health outcomes, and further compromise the financial viability of our public hospital.

This proposal does more than alter administrative structure, it disrupts the very foundation of comprehensive care currently available through managed care. Managed care provides critical services including community supports, enhanced care management, and integrated care coordination, that are essential to the well-being of our most vulnerable residents. By contrast, the FFS system lacks the robust consumer protections and quality standards that are embedded in managed care, such as timely access to care, coordinated language assistance services, independent Medical Review processes, and a reliable network of high-quality providers.

The scale of the proposed transfer raises additional concerns. Kern County alone stands to see approximately 50,000 residents with satisfactory immigration status lose Medi-Cal coverage, along with an additional 40,000 people residing in Kern with unsatisfactory immigration status, under the policy direction reflected in H.R. 1. These losses would have profound repercussions for our local healthcare safety net, hospitals, community clinics, and providers across the continuum of care.

More broadly, the proposal fails to acknowledge that the FFS system is not currently prepared to absorb millions of additional members across the state. Lower reimbursement rates already challenge provider participation; adding substantial new volume without structural improvements will create significant barriers to care and exacerbate unmet health needs. Any superficial appearance of cost savings proposed in the Governor's May Revise would stem not from increased efficiency but from individuals forgoing necessary medical care, for which the cost would ultimately be borne by local providers as untreated conditions escalate into our local urgent care and emergency rooms leading to costlier services and higher rates of uncompensated care.

We recognize the state's responsibility to align programs with federal requirements. However, compliance does not mandate moving forward with policy choices that weaken care access, destabilize local healthcare systems, and place vulnerable residents at risk. Kern County urges the Legislature to reject this proposal and instead pursue approaches that preserve comprehensive, coordinated care for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors remains committed to working with the Legislature toward solutions that protect access to care, uphold program integrity, and reflect responsible stewardship. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued partnership in serving the people of California.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee
Honorable Members, Senate Health Committee

Honorable Members, Senate Subcommittee 3 on Health – Human Services
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties
Kern County Public Health Department
Kern County Department of Human Services
Kern Health Systems
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange