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June 25, 2015

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Jennifer Kent, Director
California Department of Health Care Services
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS
Sacramento, CA 95899

RE: AB 1117 (Garcia): Medi-Cal: Vaccination Rates– Support if Amended

Dear Ms. Kent:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Executive Committee voted to take a support if amended recommendation for AB 1117 (Garcia), a bill that would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish and administer the California Childhood Immunization Quality Improvement Fund (CCIQIF) program to improve childhood immunization rates among children enrolled in a Medi-Cal managed care plan.

CCLHO supports the bill if amended to include the distribution of a share of incentive funds when the immunization is provided by the Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ), and urges DHCS to also support the bill if amended as described.

This amendment is important as some LHJs provide the majority of immunizations with its jurisdiction, with Medi-Cal providers referring beneficiaries to the LHJ. Providing the incentive payment solely to the Medi-Cal managed care plans would leave out the entity incurring the cost of immunization, in this case the LHJ.

This policy change has a potential impact on early childhood health and health inequities by supporting a living wage and family income stability.

CCLHO is an organization of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions established in statute in 1947 to consult with, advise, and make recommendations to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), other departments, boards, commissions and officials of federal, state, and local government, the Legislature, and any other organization or association on matters affecting health.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please contact me at muntu.davis@acgov.org or 510-267-8010.

Sincerely,

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

Cc: Karen Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer, CDPH