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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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May 29, 2019

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chairwoman, Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chairman, Budget Conference Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **May Revise Termination of Realignment Funding to CMSP - OPPOSE**

Dear Chairwoman Mitchell and Chairman Ting:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, and as a participating county in the County Medical Services Program (CMSP), I write to express Solano County's opposition to the provision of the May Revise proposed budget that permanently ends Realignment funding to CMSP. The Senate budget action approved the Revision; the Assembly budget action approved placeholder language that would modify the May Revision.

The proposed change in the May Revision to the Health Realignment allocation formula – changing to 75% (state)/25% (county), as adopted by the Senate, would result in the permanent loss of annual funding to CMSP beginning this new fiscal year. The Legislative Analyst has concurred with this determination at both Budget Sub-Committee hearings on the May Revision.

CMSP has successfully served rural counties for over thirty years. The program's latest project, Path to Health (Camino a la Salud), serves low-income undocumented adults (ages 21-64) that are enrolled in emergency Medi-Cal. Path to Health provides no-cost primary care and low-cost pharmacy benefit coverage through health centers throughout CMSP counties. The project has the potential to reach up to 50,000 undocumented adults, which goes far beyond what has been proposed in the budget.

The May Revision budget proposal would permanently end the allocation of Realignment revenues to CMSP. As an alternative to what is in the May Revise, the CMSP Governing Board has proposed a compromise in which \$20 million of future CMSP Realignment allocations be rededicated to the State to assist with the expansion of Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented young people up to age 26. The CMSP Governing Board has already approved several additional programs and program expansions that will have a direct benefit to Californians; however, the Board cannot move forward with these projects (which will spend down their reserve over the next 8 years to supplement the reduction in funding) unless their long-term funding stream and financial viability is assured.

The Honorable Holly Mitchell and the Honorable Phil Ting

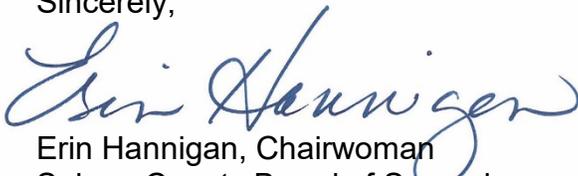
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As a county participating in CMSP, the Solano County Board of Supervisors supports the alternative proposal offered by CMSP. We ask that the Conference Committee develop trailer bill language that reflects this compromise as afforded through the Assembly Budget Sub Committee action and abandon the current proposal in the May Revision and as approved by the Senate. The Solano County Board of Supervisors is deeply concerned that the Realignment formula change and the loss of ongoing funding to CMSP will force the CMSP Governing Board to scale back its health coverage expansion efforts, which would hurt Solano County and impact many Solano County residents.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and this compromise recommendation.

Sincerely,



Erin Hannigan, Chairwoman
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Budget Conference Committee
Chris Woods, Office of the Speaker Pro Tem
Jason Sisney, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance
Adam Dorsey, Department of Finance
Jennifer Kent, Acting Director, Department of Health Care Services
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
CMSP Governing Board
Solano County State Legislative Delegation
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih