



May 2, 2018

Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support – AB 2430 (Arambula) Expanded Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled Eligibility

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez Fletcher,

On behalf of the members of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CA PH) and the millions of patients they serve, I am writing to voice our support for AB 2430 (Arambula). This bill expands Medi-Cal eligibility for persons 65 and over and for persons with disabilities to 138 percent of the federal poverty level through the Medi-Cal Aged and Disabled Program.

As you know, California's 21 public health care systems play a central role in the state's safety net and health care landscape, delivering care to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay or circumstance. Though just six percent of all California hospitals statewide, they serve 2.85 million Californians each year, provide 35 percent of all hospital care to the Medi-Cal population in our communities, and provide nearly 40 percent of all hospital care to the state's uninsured residents. They also serve hundreds of thousands of Californians as their chosen source for primary, specialty, and hospital care. To a large extent, their patient population has complex and multiple medical needs. Filling their significant and multiple roles, public health care systems have a profound impact on the health care and health of millions of Californians.

Health insurance, and continuous enrollment in that health insurance, is the best way for patients to receive access to needed services, especially primary and preventive care. Continuous enrollment also assists plans and providers with quality improvement, as we can track patients over time, maintain regular patient engagement, and measure year over year outcomes. Under current law, there are inequalities in the income levels different groups need to qualify for Medi-Cal benefits. As a result, when adults switch between groups, for example by turning 65, it can create gaps in coverage. AB 2430 corrects these inequities by raising the effective eligibility level for aged and disabled Medi-Cal recipients to 138 percent of federal poverty, bringing it in line with eligibility levels for most other adults, reducing the chance that a gap in coverage will occur.

For these reasons, we support AB 2430. We would be pleased to further discuss our position with you and answer any questions you may have. Please contact Terri Thomas, our Sacramento representative, at 916-325-1010 if you would like to follow up. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Hesketh".

Sarah Hesketh
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cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Lisa Murawski, Committee Consultant
Peter Anderson, Republican Consultant
Terri Thomas, Thomas Advocacy