



March 29, 2022

The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support – AB 1900 (Arambula): Medi-Cal: Income level for maintenance

Dear Chairman Holden,

On behalf of the members of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems and the millions of patients they serve, I am writing to voice our support for AB 1900, which would raise the income level for the Medi-Cal Medically Needy program to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) would reduce the share of costs requirements and establish more consistent income requirements across the Medi-Cal program.

As you know, California's 21 public health care systems are the core of the state's health care safety net, delivering high-quality care to more than 3.7 million patients annually, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Most patients seen in public health care systems are either Medi-Cal beneficiaries or remain uninsured. Statewide, we provide nearly 40 percent of all hospital care to the state's uninsured, and 35 percent of all hospital care to the Medi-Cal population. Public health care systems also operate over half of the state's top-level trauma and burn centers, and train half of all physicians in the state.

Public health care systems, as major providers of care to Medi-Cal and uninsured individuals, see firsthand the consequences of delayed medical care. Under current law, share of cost requirements for certain Medi-Cal beneficiaries are not uniform, which creates inequities within the program and barriers to accessing care. AB 1900 is intended to reduce the share of cost for medically needy residents and their families, ensuring that individuals can access the most appropriate care, at the right time and in the right setting. Specifically, the bill raises the maintenance need income level of the Medi-Cal Medically Needy program to 138% of the FPL, reducing the chance of delayed medical care or that a gap in coverage could occur.

It is for these reasons that we support AB 1900. We would be pleased to further discuss our position with you and answer any questions you may have. Please contact Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, our Sacramento representative, at 916-272-0011 if you would like to follow-up. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hesketh
Senior Vice President of External Affairs
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cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allegra Kim, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Gino Folchi, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Hurst Brooks Espinosa