



March 29, 2022

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

**Subject: Support – AB 1995 (Arambula): Medi-Cal: premiums, contributions, and copayments**

Dear Chairman Holden,

On behalf of the members of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems and the millions of patients our members serve, I am writing to voice our support for AB 1995, which would ensure low-income Californians can access needed health care services by eliminating Medi-Cal premiums for children, pregnant people, and people with disabilities and eliminating copayments for children, pregnant women, and individuals with disabilities on Medi-Cal.

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.

As core safety net providers whose mission is to serve all members of our community, public health care systems understand the importance that coverage can have on health and access to care for low-income populations. Under existing law, California requires certain low-income children, pregnant people, and people with disabilities to pay monthly premiums to access healthcare services through Medi-Cal. For many families and disadvantaged individuals, monthly premium payments create an undue economic burden, competing with other household necessities such as rent, food, and transportation. By eliminating monthly premiums and copays for these beneficiaries, AB 1995 would remove barriers to care and help ensure beneficiaries are getting the appropriate care they need when they need it.

It is for these reasons that we support AB 1995. 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  
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Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, Hurst Brooks Espinosa