



April 17, 2026

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
1021 O St., #7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT – SB 1422 (Durazo) – Medi-Cal eligibility: immigration status

Dear Chair Cervantes:

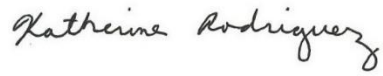
On behalf of the members of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems and the millions of patients they serve, I am writing to express our support of SB 1422 (Durazo), which seeks to restore access to full-scope Medi-Cal benefits for individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status, ages 19 and above, starting January 1, 2027.

California's 17 public hospital systems, which include county-operated and affiliated facilities and the five University of California health systems, are the core of the state's health care safety net. County public health care systems have a mission and mandate to deliver high-quality care to all, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status, across a comprehensive range of services. Despite representing only 6% of all hospitals statewide, public health care systems provide 35% of all Medi-Cal and uninsured hospital care. They contribute over \$4 billion annually to the Medi-Cal program, in place of the state's share, with many of their payments uniquely tied to quality and performance improvements. Additionally, these systems train a diverse and inclusive workforce, including nearly half of all new doctors in hospitals across the state.

SB 1422 (Durazo) is a necessary step to restore equitable coverage and preserve access to care for all Californians. California's diverse communities deserve health care options offered through trusted providers who understand their unique patient needs. While the 2025-26 State Budget froze Medi-Cal enrollment for undocumented adults who would otherwise be eligible this does not eliminate the need for health care; it instead locks families out of preventative and primary care further straining safety net services. This comes at a time when public hospital systems are simultaneously preparing for a loss of \$3.4 billion annually due to loss of federal Medi-Cal funding, increased levels of uninsured patients and uncompensated care resulting from the passage of H.R. 1. By restoring enrollment access to Medi-Cal, SB 1422 maintains its promise of Medi-Cal for all as one of the first states to offer health care to undocumented communities.

For these reasons, CAPH supports SB 1422 (Durazo). If you have any questions regarding our position on this bill, please contact Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, at 916-272-0011. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine Rodriguez".

Katie Rodriguez
Interim CEO & President
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

CC: The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Tim Conaghan, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus