



TOBY DOUGLAS
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

*attention:
Paula
Villescaz*

July 25, 2014

The Honorable Richard Pan
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Pan:

ASSEMBLY BILL 357 (AS AMENDED JULY 1, 2014) – OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 357. AB 357 would transfer the Healthy Families Advisory Board (HFAB) from the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and rename the HFAB to the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel (MCHAP). The bill would expand the current membership of the HFAB from 15 to 19 members, with two of the members appointed by the Legislature, and require DHCS to submit on or before January 1, 2018, and every 5 years thereafter, a report to the Legislature describing the MCHAP's accomplishments, effectiveness, efficiency, and any recommendations for improvement to their role.

While DHCS welcomes advice and dialogue with stakeholders and experts such as the HFAB members, adding an independent advisory board specific to children's health issues, as proposed by AB 357, is deemed unnecessary. DHCS agrees there is potential value in having a group that looks holistically across all areas of Medi-Cal at issues and approaches to improve children's health outcomes. However, this group should be a component of an existing DHCS stakeholder group and not structured as a formal advisory panel, in statute or otherwise. This is consistent with DHCS's approach to restructuring stakeholder groups and having the flexibility to modify groups as needed.

DHCS is developing an overall Stakeholder Engagement Initiative, which will incorporate comprehensive review to improve external communication, structure and transparency of stakeholder engagement and to provide venues that allow the general public and stakeholders, including Legislative staff, to actively engage DHCS and provide meaningful input on policy issues. This process includes a review of statutory

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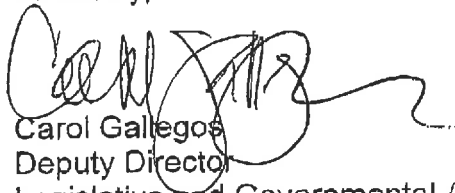
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required stakeholder groups and areas of overlap. AB 357 would create potential duplication and overlap of stakeholder efforts already occurring and DHCS believes the intent of AB 357 will be met through the consultation of existing stakeholder committees that provide input and feedback on policies related to children's health issues in Medi-Cal.

It is for these reasons we must oppose AB 357. If you have any questions regarding our position, please call me at (916) 440-7500.

Sincerely,



Carol Gallegos
Deputy Director
Legislative and Governmental Affairs.

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

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