

Date: August 11, 2014

To: Members of the California Legislature

Re: AB 357 (Pan)

The undersigned organizations are writing **to strongly support the passage of AB 357 (Pan)**, which would rename the Healthy Families Advisory Panel as the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel and modify its scope and structure in accord with the panel's move to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) following the transition of Healthy Families enrollees to Medi-Cal.

The Healthy Families Advisory Panel was a 15-member panel of stakeholders, including parents of children enrolled in Healthy Families, that advised the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) on all policies, regulations, operations, and implementation of the Healthy Families Program; made recommendations that helped improve the quality of care for children in Healthy Families; and served as an important venue for parents of enrollees, providers, and other experts to discuss ways to improve the program.

In 2013, over 750,000 children were transferred from the Healthy Families Program to the Medi-Cal program. The legislation authorizing the transition of Healthy Families subscribers (AB 1494, Chapter 28, Statutes of 2012) also required a transfer of the Healthy Families Advisory Panel from MRMIB to DHCS. However, existing law (INS 12693.90), which defines the Healthy Families Advisory Panel, needs to be replaced with language that reflects the panel's new location and purpose.

AB 357 would rename the Healthy Families Advisory Panel the Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel; maintain a combination of enrollee representatives, providers, and other experts; move the body's advisory capacity from MRMIB to DHCS; require DHCS to provide staff assistance to the advisory panel; and require a report be provided to the Legislature that would include any recommended changes needed for the advisory panel to better function within the changing landscape of the Medi-Cal program and its other stakeholder and advisory groups. We understand that DHCS is undertaking an effort to restructure stakeholder groups; this report would help ensure the panel fits into a revamped advisory system.

We strongly urge you to support AB 357 as a means to ensure that children and families have a strong voice in DHCS and a venue to address issues affecting children's access to health care services in Medi-Cal.

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American Academy
of Pediatrics



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California District IX

American Academy of Pediatrics
– California



Asian Americans
Advancing Justice – L.A.



Autism Deserves
Equal Coverage



Butte County
Child Abuse Prevention
Center



California Academy of
Family Physicians



California Academy of
Physician Assistants



California Coverage &
Health Initiatives



California Federation
of Teachers



California Immigrant
Policy Center



California Medical Association



California Pan-Ethnic Health Coalition



California Primary Care Association



California Psychiatric Association



California Psychological Association



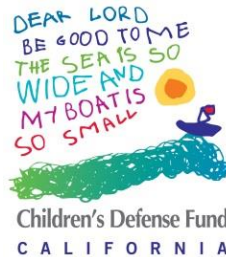
California School-Based Health Alliance



California WIC Association



Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County



Children's Defense Fund – California



Children's Specialty Care Coalition



Civicorps Schools



Community Health Partnership



Family Service Association



Family Voices of California



First 5 Association of California



First 5 Del Norte



First 5 L.A.



First 5 Santa Cruz County



First 5 Tehama



First 5 Tulare County



Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission



Health Plan of San Mateo



Latino Coalition for a Healthy California



Lincoln Child Center



March of Dimes



Maternal and Child Health Access



MomsRising



PICO California



Prevent Blindness
Northern California



Rebekah Children's Services



Regional Asthma
Management & Prevention



The Children's Partnership



The L.A. Trust



United Way of Fresno County



United Way of
Stanislaus County



United Way of the Bay Area



United Way of Tulare County



United Way of Silicon Valley



United Ways of California



Watch Me Grow
Demonstration Site

Mare Island Heritage Trust