



April 2025

Dear Honorable Legislator,

On behalf of nonprofit and community leaders committed to serving the Inland Empire's most vulnerable residents, **we write to express our strong opposition to legislation that would result in significant cuts to Medicaid and/or Medi-Cal in California.** These cuts would jeopardize access to vital health care for our highest-need populations and destabilize the economy in our region.

Medicaid/Medi-Cal provides coverage to 15 million Californians—including over 2 million residents or over 42% of the total population in the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino counties). Representing the 4th and 1st largest counties by geographic territory in the contiguous United States, Medicaid provides crucial health and safety-net services to families and children, seniors, pregnant moms, disabled adults, and those with mental health and chronic and life-threatening health conditions.

From the perspective of nonprofit and community-based organizations that work with low-income and high-need residents every day, we see firsthand the importance of access to quality health services.

More than half of non-disabled Medicaid enrollees are working low-wage jobs in local businesses or organizations. Receiving health coverage through Medicaid allows members to focus on supporting their family, maintaining a job and boosting the local economy through workforce stability.

To be clear, cuts to funding would have devastating consequences not only for those who rely on services but for the entire healthcare system and local economy. Reduced funding would put additional strain on hospitals and health systems, reducing critical programs such as maternal and child health services, 24/7 emergency care and mental health support. **Resulting devastating effects will include staff layoffs and almost certain closures of facilities** – increasing unemployment, overwhelming emergency rooms and community health providers, increasing distances and wait times for all residents to access services, and worsening health outcomes across the region.

As you consider measures that could lead to substantial reductions in Medicaid/Medi-Cal funding – including changes to eligibility or covered services, or reductions to whole-person care – **we ask you to maintain funding levels to protect the health and well-being of millions of Inland Empire residents.** As nonprofit and community leaders, we value pairing strong community-based support, volunteers, and philanthropy with reliable government programs – and cuts to Medicaid/Medi-Cal would be felt deep and wide by families and seniors across our region.

We respectfully urge you to uphold our shared commitment to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of economic status, have access to the care they need to live healthy, productive lives. We will continue to collectively advocate for the protection of Medicaid/Medi-Cal funding, and if you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me, IEHP Foundation CEO Greg Bradbard, directly at (909) 296-7047 or by email at Greg.Bradbard@iehpfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

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