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June 14, 2019

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo  
State Capitol, Room 5160  
Sacramento, CA 94814

RE: **HOAC Supports SB 29**

Dear Senator Durazo:

The Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), which represents the physician health officers of California's sixty-one city and county jurisdictions, supports your SB 29, related to Medi-Cal access for undocumented residents.

California's uninsured rate is a historic low of 6.8%, thanks to robust implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has brought health coverage to an additional 7 million Californians. However, federal law explicitly excludes undocumented adult immigrants from receiving health coverage through Medi-Cal, and from selecting a health plan or receiving subsidies through Covered California. As a result, undocumented adults are still left without comprehensive health care.

Of the nearly 2.2 million undocumented Californians, about 1.5 million remain uninsured and about 1.15 million are low-income. This reality has tremendous health and economic impacts on families and our state where one in six of all California children have at least one undocumented parent. Your bill will provide Medi-Cal benefits to low-income undocumented adults whose incomes are at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level.

HOAC is dedicated to promoting practices that improve the health of all of California's residents. As we know in public health, one person's health affects everybody's health, regardless of immigration status. Your bill brings our state closer to ensuring that every Californian has comprehensive, affordable, and accessible care. Thank you for introducing this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kat DeBurgh".

Kat DeBurgh, MPH  
Executive Director