



June 20, 2023

The Honorable Susan Eggman  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
1021 O St., Room 3310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1202 (Lackey) – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Eggman:

Hospitals are committed to ensuring children receive the preventive care needed to foster their well-being and long-term development. According to the Bureau of State Audits, from 2018 through 2021, less than half of children enrolled in Medi-Cal received all required preventive services, which include immunizations, mental health assessments, and physical examinations. Children who do not receive these services are more likely to have medical conditions with long-term impacts.

This is why the California Hospital Association, on behalf of its more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, is writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 1202, which would provide state policymakers with the background information they need to improve access to preventive care. Specifically, the bill would require the Department of Health Care Services to produce an analysis on Medi-Cal providers needed to ensure plan compliance with the time or distance and appointment time standards for pediatric primary care.

In 2021, the California Health Care Foundation reported that Medi-Cal covered nearly 40% of all children in the state. With a shortage of Medi-Cal primary care providers and a significant population of children with pediatric needs, more must be done to close this equity gap. An analysis will better inform how to allocate the state resources to increase pediatric health care capacity and improve accountability and oversight of the plans that are entrusted to arrange care for the 5.3 million children in California.

For these reasons, CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote, and we thank the author for his leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at [vgonzalez@calhospital.org](mailto:vgonzalez@calhospital.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vanessa Gonzalez".

Vanessa Gonzalez  
Vice President, State Advocacy

cc: The Honorable Tom Lackey  
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee  
Jen Flory, Consultant, Senate Health Committee  
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus