



March 17, 2009

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The Honorable Elaine Alquist  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 114 (Liu) – Medi-Cal: Independent Foster Care Adolescents  
As Introduced January 29, 2009 – SUPPORT  
Set for Hearing on April 1, 2009 in Senate Health Committee**

Dear Senator Alquist:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support SB 114, a bill by Senator Carol Liu that would create a simplified process for former foster youth to maintain their Medi-Cal eligibility.

In 2000, California exercised its option to provide Medi-Cal to former foster youth and children transitioning out of foster care at age 18 up until they turn 21. SB 114 seeks to help former foster youth maintain their Medi-Cal benefits under this option despite this population's often transitory and varied living arrangements.

Under SB 114, annual redetermination forms still will be sent to former foster youth, but a failure to return the form would not result in a change in eligibility, as long as other eligibility requirements are met. In addition, the state may terminate the foster youth's Medi-Cal benefits only if it is determined that a former foster youth is no longer eligible. This process would meet federal redetermination requirements and eliminate unnecessary paperwork while ensuring that eligible youth do not lose their Medi-Cal benefits before the age of 21.

Former foster youth face an uphill battle when they are released from foster care at 18 and expected to take on significant adult responsibilities. The state of California has recognized since 2000 that access to medical care for this vulnerable population is a necessary component of success in employment and education. SB 114 will help former foster youth remain healthy and more able to compete in the adult world.

For these reasons, CSAC supports SB 114. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 327-7500 Ext. 531 or [kbrooks@counties.org](mailto:kbrooks@counties.org) if you require additional information about our position. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Brooks".

Kelly Brooks  
Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Carol Liu, Member, California State Senate  
Members, Senate Health Committee  
Roger Dunstan, Consultant, Senate Health Committee  
Joe Parra, Senate Republican Caucus Consultant  
County Welfare Directors Association