



August 6, 2013

Senator Kevin de León
California State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1263 (Pérez) Medi-Cal: CommuniCal – Support
Senate Appropriations Committee – August 12, 2013**

Dear Senator de León:

On behalf of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to inform you of the County's support of AB 1263 (Pérez). AB 1263 would require the Department of Health Care Services to establish the Medi-Cal Patient-Centered Communication Program (CommuniCal). CommuniCal would provide and reimburse medical interpretation services for individuals who are limited English proficient, and establish a certification process and registry for interpreters in the Program.

Existing federal law provides for increased administrative funding for translation and interpretation services provided in connection with the enrollment, retention, and use of services under the Medicaid program. Alameda County currently struggles to meet the needs of county residents receiving Medi-Cal who speak more than 100 different languages. Language barriers can contribute to misunderstandings, inadequate evaluation and diagnosis, and lack of appropriate treatment when doctors and patients don't fully understand each other.

AB 1263 would increase access to interpretation services for Alameda County's Medi-Cal population and would utilize additional federal funds to do so. Therefore, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1263, and urges an "Aye" vote on the measure. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 443-8891.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Wordelman", written in a cursive style.

Nicole Wordelman

Cc: Members and Consultant of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Senate Minority Consultant
Assemblyman John Pérez
Alameda County Legislative Delegation
Alameda County BOS/PAL Committee

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