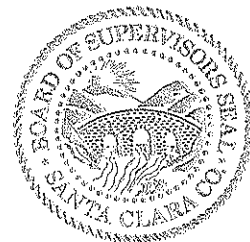


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

KEN YEAGER  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT



September 16, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1263 (Pérez) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express support for AB 1263 (Pérez), a measure intended to increase Medi-Cal recipients' access to medical interpretation services.

According to the US Census Bureau, 43.7 percent of Californians over the age of 5 speak a language other than English, and 19.9 percent of Californians over the age of 5 speak English "less than very well." Additionally, according to the California Health Interview Survey, of the 3.5 million adults in the Medi-Cal program, about 281,000 (8.1 percent) had difficulty understanding their doctor and/or needed another person to help them understand their doctor. Among the parents of 1.8 million children under age 12 in the Medi-Cal program, about 135,000 (7.4 percent) had difficulty understanding their child's doctor and/or needed another person's help to understand the doctor.

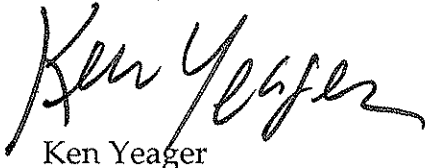
AB 1263 would require the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish the Medi-Cal Patient-Centered Communication Program, to be known as CommuniCal. This program would provide medical interpretation services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient.

In 2009, the federal government increased the level of matching funds for translation and interpretation services available under Medicaid and CHIP. Therefore, new State General Fund costs accrued under AB 1263 would be offset by an enhanced federal match of 75 percent, rather than the 50 percent match generally attributable for administrative costs.

Although our County hospital, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) and its clinics, already provide no-cost translation services in almost any language 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, AB 1263 would improve medical translation for Medi-Cal recipients seeking care elsewhere.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our views on this matter and urge you to sign AB 1263 into law.

Sincerely,

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

Ken Yeager

President, Board of Supervisors

c: Assembly Speaker John Pérez  
Santa Clara County Legislative Delegation  
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive  
Michael Rattigan, Legislative Representative