Providing Care for 12 Million Children, Seniors and Working Families

Thanks to a historic bipartisan legislative agreement in 2013, without a single "No" vote and with the governor's signature, California will receive billions a year in new federal funding for health care for children and seniors. However, this law expires in 2017.

The Medi-Cal Funding and Accountability Act (Act) is a simple, common sense solution that makes the reforms permanent and guarantees ongoing federal health care funding. This change is needed now to ensure that California receives its fair share from Washington DC and to ensure the money is spent as intended.

Government Accountability
At a time of great uncertainty about health care, the Act ensures new federal matching funds are used for those who truly need it. The Act holds the Legislature accountable and prohibits government, bureaucrats or other special interests from diverting funds away from health care for unrelated purposes. Any changes to the use of the funds would have to be approved by voters first.

$3 Billion Annually in New Federal Matching Funds
Hospitals have agreed to participate in a program that unlocks approximately $3 billion a year in new federal matching funds, maximizing California's share. The money must be spent to provide health care services to children and resources for Medi-Cal to serve elderly and low-income Californians. Without these resources, the money would have to come from privately insured patients.

Protect Taxpayers and Access to Hospital Care
People with private insurance shouldn't have their premiums increased to subsidize Medi-Cal when federal money is available to help cover the cost. Funding guaranteed by the Act will also help prevent closures or cutbacks in local hospitals and emergency rooms.

Statewide Support
Hospitals and health care providers across California have joined together to sponsor this common sense solution, which protects services for children and seniors.   There is no organized opposition to the measure.