



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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Clerk of the Board
168 West Alisal St. 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831 755 5066
cob@co.monterey.ca.us

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1510, the Due Process Continuity of Care Act – SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Panetta and Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 1510, the *Due Process Continuity of Care Act*. This bipartisan legislation would not only address important health care issues, but also helps local jails to bear the financial burden of health care for pretrial detainees.

The bill amends a portion of the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP), which denies Medicaid coverage to eligible individuals being detained pre-trial. Specifically, this bill is aimed at ensuring pretrial detainees receiving substance abuse treatment can continue such routines, reducing the rates of overdose and recidivism post-detainment. Last year, a version of this legislation was signed into law, allowing eligible juvenile detainees to continue to receive such benefits.

The MIEP's policy of exclusion towards pretrial detainees conflicts with the constitutional right to due process by denying Medicaid coverage to individuals presumed innocent. It also shifts the full financial burden of pretrial detainees' health care onto local jails and taxpayers – two-thirds of people held in local jails are pretrial detainees. More than 95 percent of local jail inmates eventually return to their communities, bringing their health conditions with them.

The bill also authorizes \$50 million in planning grant dollars for the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to award to states with the goal of providing additional support to states, counties and local jails for implementing this policy, improving the quality of care provided in jails, and enhancing the number of available providers to treat this population.

We urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1510 and thank you both for your continued support for adequate access to health care for all individuals.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California

