

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 207 (Hurtado) Medi-Cal: Asthma Preventative Services. - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hurtado:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support SB 207 which would expand asthma prevention services to low-income families.

The bill is projected to help more than 265,000 Californians enrolled in Medi-Cal who have poorly controlled asthma and have reported an emergency room or urgent care visit for it. About 90 percent of all pediatric asthma emergency department visits in California last year were children covered by Medi-Cal. That's up from less than 50 percent in 2012, illustrating the need for the bill. SB 207 is designed to reduce those numbers by allowing Medi-Cal reimbursement for asthma education and home trigger assessments. If successfully implemented, the bill would cut Medi-Cal costs by lowering the number of emergency visits and hospitalizations.

Increasing access to asthma education and home environmental asthma trigger assessments will help strengthen the quality of care, improve health outcomes, reduce health care costs and advance health equity.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey supports SB 207. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisors, Jennifer Capitolo or Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Monning
Senator Anna Caballero
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
California State Association of Counties