

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Susan Eggman  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 577 (Eggman) Medi-Cal: maternal mental health. - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Eggman:

The County of Monterey is please to support your bill, AB 577, which would extend the duration of Medi-Cal eligibility for postpartum care for an individual who is diagnosed with a maternal mental health condition from 60 days beginning on the last day of pregnancy to, instead, up to one year beginning on the last day of pregnancy.

Medi-Cal coverage for pregnant women extends to 322% of federal poverty level (FPL), while Medi-Cal coverage for other individuals extends to 138% of FPL. Women with incomes in the range of 213%-322% of the FPL have a share of cost for Medi-Cal: they are eligible for Medi-Cal via participation in the "Medi-Cal Access Program," which requires a premium payment of 1.5% of the subscriber's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). The Medi-Cal Access Program provides comprehensive healthcare from the effective date of coverage until the last day of the month in which the 60th day following the end of the pregnancy occurs.

Though there have been bills introduced in the U.S. Congress to extend Medi-Cal coverage for postpartum women for up to one year from the last day of pregnancy, in a manner similar to this bill, there are currently no federal matching funds available to pay for extended coverage for this population.

Maternal mental health conditions, including postpartum depression, anxiety, and psychosis, affect about one in five mothers in California. Research shows these conditions are often undiagnosed and untreated.

For these reason, we support AB 577. 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