

July 22, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 1895, Lower Health Care Costs Act – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris:

I am writing today on behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to express our support for the Lower Health Care Costs Act (S. 1895), which seeks to reduce patient medical costs by ending surprise billing for patients, promoting billing transparency, and reducing prescription drug prices.

S. 1895 also would improve health information technology and commit new federal funding to state and local public health efforts. The legislation authorizes grants to local public health departments to address vaccine-preventable diseases, obesity prevention, access to specialty health care services for medically underserved areas, and public health data modernization. More specifically, the legislation requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to state and local public health departments to improve data collection capabilities, simplify data-reporting by health care providers, enhance interoperability of public health data systems with health information technology and support earlier disease detection and electronic case reporting. The Monterey County Health Department would benefit greatly from these new grant programs.

We urge your support for this important legislation when it comes before the Senate. Thank you for all you do for Monterey County.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Congressman Jimmy Panetta