

ADVANCING THE EVOLUTION OF HEALTH CARE

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is a new organization that is affiliated with the California Primary Care Association and is dedicated to advancing the mission of community health centers through state and federal advocacy. CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates represents more than 1,100 community health centers that provide care to 1 in 7 Californians.



WORKFORCE

Our ability to care for the communities we serve and meet our mission is in jeopardy due to an unprecedented healthcare workforce crisis in California.

California currently ranks 32nd in the nation for physician access, and our ratio of primary care physicians in Medicaid is half the federal recommendation. CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is sponsoring two bills that will help address the primary care provider shortage:

- **AB 2216 by Assemblymember Bonta** will establish the Teaching Health Center Primary Care Graduate Medical Education Fund to sustain California's current teaching health centers and expand that opportunity to establish new teaching health center sites.
- **AB 2048 by Assemblymember Gray** streamlines the California State Loan Repayment program, and strengthens community health centers' ability to recruit healthcare providers.

The workforce crisis hampers our ability to provide our patients with the integrated health care services as well. Especially our ability to meet their behavioral health needs.



INTEGRATION

While we are on the cutting edge of integrated models of care, there is a significant shortage of mental health providers in community health centers who can provide services to Medi-Cal patients, leaving a significant unmet community need. To address these issues, CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates is sponsoring two bills:

- **AB 1863 by Assemblymember Wood** will increase Californians' access to behavioral health services in our most vulnerable communities by allowing Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) to be reimbursed on par with other behavioral health professionals at a FQHC or RHC.
- **SB 1335 by Senator Mitchell** will improve Californians' access to Substance Use Disorder treatment by eliminating a barrier which prevents community health centers from participating in the Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) and Specialty Mental Health programs.

We hope we can count on your support as we work to address California's healthcare workforce crisis and improve our ability to provide high quality integrated care in local communities.



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