



July 9, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: 2020-21 State Budget Bill

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of [Health Center Partners of Southern California](#) and our 16 members, which serve more than 850,000 patients each year for 3.6 million patient visits each year, at 160 practice sites across San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties, I was very pleased to see that the final budget **rejected all** proposed “trigger” reductions to health programs. This budget represented a strong commitment to helping all Californians by making priorities vital safety net programs and by restoring many proposed cuts to essential services. The following budget items for Community Health Centers and the communities they serve were greatly appreciated:

- **Medi-Cal Pharmacy Transition:** Reinstatement of the supplemental payment pool for CHCs;
- **Medi-Cal FQHC Payment Adjustments:** Rejection of the proposal to eliminate rate carve-outs for FQHCs and RHCs;
- **Reinstatement of Proposed Health Cuts:**
 - All Medi-Cal optional benefit benefits were continued at the FY19-20 level; and,
 - FY19-20 funding levels were maintained for the Song-Brown Healthcare Workforce Training Program as were Proposition 56 funds for supplemental payments for Medi-Cal providers and the Physician and Dentist Loan Repayment Program.

While I was disappointed that Medi-Cal expansion for undocumented elders has been put on pause, this budget – overall – reflects a clear commitment to underserved communities and the safety-net institutions critical to their success.

Community Health Centers fulfill an irreplaceable role in our state’s and our nation’s health care system. They are a vital part of the COVID-19 response effort and continue to be medical homes for 29 million patients nationwide – 7.2 million in California. **I thank you, and your staff, for your ongoing support.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry N. Tuttle".

Henry N. Tuttle
President and Chief Executive Officer