



July 9, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins, President pro tempore, California Senate
State Capitol, Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Re: 2020-21 State Budget Bill

Dear Senator Atkins:

I was pleased to see the final budget **rejected all** proposed “trigger” reductions to health programs proposed by the Administration. This budget represented a strong commitment to all Californians by affirming the priority of vital safety net programs and restoring many proposed cuts to essential services for our patient populations. The following budget items for Community Health Centers and the patients we 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 benefits will continue 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 am disappointed 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.

As you know, 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. **Many, many thanks to you and your amazing 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