

Use your organization's letterhead

Sample Support Letter – SB 997 (Lara)

Send by email: aimee.anspach@sen.ca.gov or by fax: (916) 266-9438

Send a copy to: Lawrence Cooper, lawrence.cooper@sen.ca.gov and Beth Capell, bcapell@jps.net

<DATE>

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 997 (Lara) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator NAME,

<YOUR ORGANIZATION> is writing in support of SB 997 (Lara), which would require the Department of Health Care Services to allow undocumented children who are currently enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente Child Health Program and who are eligible for Medi-Cal to maintain their current Kaiser coverage.

Last year's historic enactment of Health4All Kids (SB 4 Lara and SB 75 of 2015) allows all low-income California children regardless of immigration status to enroll in comprehensive Medi-Cal. Starting in May, all income-eligible children will have access to comprehensive, zero-cost or low-cost Medi-Cal benefits, including dental and mental health coverage as well as the full array of health benefits (doctors, hospitals, prescription drugs, and more).

Over 60,000 undocumented children today have coverage from Kaiser Permanente which Kaiser has paid for as part of its charitable obligation and these children will be eligible for Medi-Cal once Health4All Kids is effective in May of 2016. This legislation will help assure continuity of care and coverage so that as these children shift from coverage paid for by Kaiser to Medi-Cal, they are more easily able to maintain their Kaiser coverage. In most California counties, Kaiser is a subcontractor for Medi-Cal managed care and families will face challenges in keeping their children on Kaiser, if the family chooses to.

Health4All Kids was an important step forward in reducing the remaining uninsured. SB997 (Lara) will help to maintain continuity of care and coverage for the low-income, undocumented children currently covered by Kaiser as they transition to Medi-Cal.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Sincerely,

<YOUR NAME>

CC: Senator Ricardo Lara, Author
Beth Capell, Health Access California (sponsor)