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May 28, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth, Chair
Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2250 (Weber) – Social determinants of health: screening and outreach – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Roth,

Local Health Plans of California (“LHPC”) is a statewide trade association representing all 17 of California’s non-for-profit and community-based health plans, which collectively cover 70% of the state’s Medi-Cal managed care enrollees, nearly 9.3 million Californians. We write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2250 (Weber), which would make social determinants of health (SDOH) screenings a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program. SDOH are incredibly influential on the health outcomes of Medi-Cal members and are an important focus of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Initiative. By making SDOH screenings a Medi-Cal benefit, AB 2250 can help to expand upon the work currently underway via CalAIM by increasing the number of Medi-Cal members that are screened for SDOH needs and connected to resources based on the needs identified.

SDOH are the conditions under which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including housing, food, transportation, utilities, and personal safety. Addressing negative SDOH with the intention of improving health outcomes for Medi-Cal members has been central to CalAIM, and more specifically, to Population Health Management and the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports benefits. Since the implementation of ECM, Community Supports, as well as the Community Health Worker (CHW) benefit in 2022, local health plans have fully embraced utilizing all the tools at their disposal to address negative SDOH and the important role that CHWs play in the implementation and delivery of ECM and Community Supports. AB 2250 compliments that ongoing work by making SDOH screenings a covered benefit for which providers can be reimbursed.

Making SDOH screenings a covered benefit will result in more Medi-Cal members being connected to the resources they need to support their health and

wellbeing. For these reasons, LHPC respectfully requests an “AYE” vote on AB 2250 (Weber).

Sincerely,

Katie Andrew

Katie Andrew
Director of Government Affairs
Local Health Plans of California

cc:

Assemblymember Weber
Members, Senate Health Committee