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For Immediate Release

The California Primary Care Association Applauds Senate and Assembly for Prioritizing Medi-Cal Outreach Program in Budget Action

Today's vote will help California meet its goal to establish Health4All.

Sacramento – Today, both the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees took action to preserve the Health Enrollment Navigators for Clinics (Navigators) program, an essential pathway to ensuring California meets its goal to establish Health4All, ensuring everyone has access to health care.

“The Navigators project has been pivotal – and will continue to be pivotal – in supporting outreach and enrollment for Medi-Cal and achieving Health4All,” said Francisco J. Silva, President, and CEO of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA). “Navigators provides funding to 107 community health centers across California that ensures those eligible for Medi-Cal are signed up and able to get access to the health care they need and deserve. We applaud the legislature in their action to preserve Navigators and look forward to continuing this important work.”

As part of the Navigator’s program, community health centers are funded to support Medi-Cal redetermination, as well as outreach, education and enrollment for those who are newly eligible for Medi-Cal coverage.

“Today’s vote is a huge step in the right direction in ensuring that this critical program remain funded, that California continues on track to provide access to health care for everyone and that there are trusted community resources in connecting Californians to community health centers,” said David Lontok, President and CEO of Comprehensive Community Health Centers, Inc. “It is imperative that this program continue to be funded, as so many of our health centers are relying on the resources to maintain staff and continue our work to connect people with health care providers.”

Community Health Centers provide the full spectrum of care, from primary care to dental to behavioral health, and serves more than 7.8 million people across the state. Community Health Center staff and providers are trusted community stakeholders and are critical in outreach efforts to enroll people for Medi-Cal and set them up with the care they are eligible to receive.

“It is essential that Governor Newsom sign this important action into law,” Silva added. “Without Navigators, we simply cannot meet our goals as a state to provide access to health care for everyone, especially those who need it most.”

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ABOUT CPCA

The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) represents nearly 1,300 non-profit community health centers who provide care to more than 7.8 million patients each year. Community health centers (CHCs) are committed to providing comprehensive, high quality health care to everyone who walks through our doors, in a compassionate and culturally sensitive manner. CHCs include federally qualified health centers (FQHC) and FQHC look-a-likes, community clinics, free clinics, rural health clinics, migrant health centers, Indian health service clinics, and family planning clinics. Services include comprehensive primary and preventive care, women's health, dental, mental health, substance use treatment, health education, outreach and enrollment, pharmacy and more.