



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

May 4, 2016

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Executive Director

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Assemblymember, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4139
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1051

Dear Assemblymember Maienschein:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 1051, the measure authored to appropriate an additional \$200 million to Denti-Cal, the state's dental care program for Medi-Cal recipients.

In its 2016 report, *Fixing Denti-Cal*, the Commission found the program to be lacking in multiple areas. One area is the lack of support for preventative care, which currently only amounts to 14 percent of the state's \$1.3 billion Denti-Cal budget. Another problem area is case management, as many Denti-Cal beneficiaries often do not know about their benefits, fail to show up to appointments and lack knowledge about the benefits of regular dental visits.

The Commission made several recommendations aimed at shifting the focus and culture of Denti-Cal. One recommendation calls for the state, along with private and non-profit organizations, to lead a reorientation of the Denti-Cal system toward more preventative care. AB 1051 would be a huge boon to that effort, and would greatly impact millions of children who need preventative dental visits to protect them from long-term tooth decay. The Commission also recommended building a more coordinated dental care delivery system with case management services to make sure people make and keep appointments.

Because Assembly Bill 1051 would provide increased funding for both additional preventative care and case management services, as well as share the Commission's overall goal of making Denti-Cal more efficient, the Commission supports this measure.

The Little Hoover Commission supports this common sense measure to improve Denti-Cal, and encourages a yes vote on AB 1051. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission