



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

February 27, 2017

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Executive Director

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 15 (MAIENSCHIN)

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 15, the measure authored by Assemblymember Maienschein to increase provider reimbursement rates for 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 preventive 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 preventive care. AB 15 would be a huge boon to that effort, and would greatly impact millions of children who need preventive 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 15 would provide increased funding for both additional preventive care and case management services, as well as share the Commission's overall goal of making Denti-Cal more efficient for all participants, the Commission supports this measure.

The Little Hoover Commission supports this straightforward measure to improve Denti-Cal, and encourages an aye vote on AB 15. 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