



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 11, 2016

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Executive Director

The Honorable Jim Wood
Assemblymember, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 2207

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 2207, the measure authored to expand enrollment and monitor access 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 such area was the low provider enrollment, which has caused several counties to be underserved by Denti-Cal, and other counties to have no Denti-Cal providers at all. This lack of providers has led to more than 13 million people in California being eligible for Denti-Cal, but who are too often unable to receive care.

The Commission made several recommendations aimed at expanding access to Denti-Cal services, with an ultimate goal of 66 percent of Denti-Cal-eligible children making annual dental visits. Several of those recommendations would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to take action to improve Denti-Cal from within. AB 2207 would call on DHCS to expedite provider enrollment by creating a dental-specific enrollment form and pursuing alternative automatic enrollment for dentists already established commercially. AB 2207 also would require DHCS to monitor access and utilization and explore additional opportunities to improve Denti-Cal.

Because Assembly Bill 2207 would require the Department of Health Care Services to improve and expand Denti-Cal provider enrollment, as well as share the Commission's overall goal of expanding access to care, 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 2207. 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