



State of California

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January 9, 2018

The Honorable Anthony Cannella
Senator, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5082
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 707

Dear Senator Cannella:

The Little Hoover Commission supports Senate Bill 707, the measure you authored to create an evidence-based advisory group to study and evaluate Denti-Cal priorities and policy decisions.

In its 2016 report, *Fixing Denti-Cal*, the Commission found the Denti-Cal program lacks any sort of evidence-based advisory group that could support and guide the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). A common complaint that the Commission heard about Denti-Cal was DHCS' unilateral decision-making, where rule changes were often announced without fully seeking an understanding of the consequences for providers or patients.

The Commission concluded that the creation of an advisory group would be the best way to assist DHCS in its decision-making process, and made that recommendation in its report. Denti-Cal should be guided by an advisory group, which consists of the state dental director and expert specialists who can weigh in on proposed decisions and make sure they are based on the best evidence and science and not merely on cost. This would be especially helpful to minimize the continual strife, confusion and even alleged harm to beneficiaries, including special needs populations. SB 707 carries out this recommendation.

The Little Hoover Commission supports this common sense measure to improve Denti-Cal, and encourages a yes vote on SB 707. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Terri Hardy
Deputy Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission