



JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 19, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

ASSEMBLY BILL 2122 (AS AMENDED JULY 3, 2018) – OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Assembly Bill (AB) 2122, which is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health Committee on June 27, 2018. AB 2122 would codify several state goals for screening children for lead exposure, and would require DHCS to take steps to ensure that all children enrolled in Medi-Cal receive blood lead screening tests in accordance with those goals.

DHCS shares the author's goal to ensure that children most vulnerable to lead poisoning be tested. However, DHCS is concerned that AB 2122 is premature, given that DHCS is currently in the midst of a number of efforts to improve blood lead screening rates. For example, DHCS is evaluating how Medi-Cal managed care plans can better track and report lead screenings, including reviewing existing policy to see if additional guidance is needed. DHCS will also consider the addition of the blood lead metric during the next review of required quality metrics, which is an established process that incorporates robust stakeholder feedback. In the fee-for-service delivery system, DHCS is reevaluating the various forms used to report data to DHCS to ensure specific lead testing fields are included. DHCS is also reviewing informational materials to see if updates will better inform providers and parents/guardians about lead screenings.

Based on these efforts, we believe AB 2122 is premature and we are opposed at this time. If you have any questions, please contact me at 440-7500.

Sincerely,

o/s/by: CG

Carol Gallegos
Deputy Director

cc: See next page

Honorable Anthony J. Portantino

Page 2

July 19, 2018

cc: The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
Senate Appropriations Committee, Members
Senate Republican Caucus
Senate Floor Analysis
Department of Finance
CHHS Legislative Unit
GO Deputy Legislative Secretary