



JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

July 3, 2018

The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

SENATE BILL 1023 (AS AMENDED MAY 25, 2018) – OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 1023. This bill would clarify that health care service plans, health insurers, and Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) may cover sexual and reproductive health services that are provided appropriately through telehealth according to clinical guidelines. The bill would also require the Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment program (Family PACT) to cover services provided by a Family PACT provider through direct video and telephonic communications, and direct or asynchronous care provided through a smart phone application.

Although DHCS supports the development and use of telehealth services to provide increased access to health care, SB 1023 would impose requirements for Family PACT services that exceed what is currently offered through telehealth in the Medi-Cal program and are recognized by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

DHCS is currently in the process of evaluating the most appropriate ways to expand the use of telehealth in Medi-Cal managed care plans and Family PACT, and would be happy to engage with the author and stakeholders as the Department continues its work with telehealth. Since this process is still in the development phase, requiring DHCS to cover telehealth services provided by a Family PACT provider would be premature.

For these reasons, DHCS must oppose SB 1023.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 440-7500.

Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher
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Sincerely,

o/s/by: MR, for

Carol Gallegos
Deputy Director

cc: The Honorable Senator Ed Hernandez
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Vice-Chair and Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Assembly Republican Caucus
Assembly Floor Analysis
Department of Finance
CHHS Legislative Unit
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