



JENNIFER KENT  
DIRECTOR

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

June 15, 2018

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

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

SENATE BILL 1287 (AS AMENDED MAY 21, 2018) – OPPOSE

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) must inform you of its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 1287, which is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee on June 26, 2018. SB 1287 would add a separate definition of “medically necessary” or a “medical necessity” for Medi-Cal beneficiaries under 21 years of age. The definition would be similar to the existing definition used in federal law for the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.

Consistent with state and federal law, DHCS already offers a robust and comprehensive package of essential health care services for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries under the age of 21 through its EPSDT benefit. Additionally, pursuant to federal requirements, Medi-Cal already adheres to the more expansive federal EPSDT definition of medical necessity to ensure that beneficiaries under the age of 21 receive additional health care services that may not similarly be covered for adults, whether covered by California’s Medicaid State Plan or not. Given this, adding a definition of “medically necessary” and “medical necessity” to state statute is unnecessary.

Furthermore, pursuant to its existing administrative authority, DHCS continuously updates issued policies and procedures to clarify for providers what medical practices, health care standards, and policies they must follow for the EPSDT population. If the author or sponsors of this legislation are aware of any policy or procedure that is in need of updating, DHCS would be happy to work with them to address those issues administratively.

Honorable Jim Wood  
Page 2  
June 15, 2018

For these reasons, DHCS opposes SB 1287.

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

Sincerely,

*o/s/b: CG*

Carol Gallegos  
Deputy Director

cc: The Honorable Ed Hernandez  
Assembly Health Committee, Members  
Assembly Republican Caucus  
Assembly Floor Analysis  
Department of Finance  
CHHS Legislative Unit  
GO Deputy Legislative Secretary