



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

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MENDOCINO COUNTY JOINS CALIFORNIA'S RURAL COUNTIES IN URGING LEGISLATURE TO ELIMINATE MEDI-CAL RATE CUTS

Mendocino County joins the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), the California Hospital Association, and a broad-based coalition of Medi-Cal providers known as We Care for California in urging the Legislature and Administration to eliminate the Assembly Bill 97 (2011) Medi-Cal rate cuts, and increase Medi-Cal payments to healthcare providers and health plans during the upcoming State Budget negotiations.

"Many Mendocino County medical providers have been impacted by these rate cuts, resulting in loss of services and limited access to services," said Supervisor Carre Brown, Chair of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. "Elimination of the Medi-Cal rate cuts is critical to Mendocino County, and we urge the Legislature and Administration to take these impacts into consideration as they enter Budget negotiations."

AB 97, a 2011-12 State Budget Trailer Bill, was passed by the Legislature and approved by Governor Brown in 2011. The measure cut rates to a variety of Medi-Cal providers by 10 percent off of the 2008 reimbursement rates. Payment reductions of this scale threaten the accessibility of services to individuals who reside in rural and already medically underserved areas.

On June 2, 2015, *We Care for California* sponsored a rally at the Capitol in which nearly five thousand participants advocated on behalf of eliminating the 2011 Medi-Cal rate cuts. Medical professionals, Medi-Cal recipients, lawmakers, advocates, hospitals, and insurers all joined together at the largest health-related rally ever at the state Capitol with a single message to Budget negotiators and to the Governor – "Medi-Cal Matters." Medi-Cal reimbursement rates directly impact the ability of providers and facilities to accept Medi-Cal patients, and thereby directly affect access to healthcare. While the rally and issue is important to healthcare efforts statewide, elimination of the Medi-Cal rate cuts is especially crucial in California's rural counties, where access to healthcare is already limited.

The Legislature must pass a State Budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year by June 15, 2015, and send it to the Governor for his action. The 2015-16 State Budget will take effect July 1, 2015. For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Executive Office at (707) 463-4441 or duketts@co.mendocino.ca.us.

Released by:

Handwritten signature of Carmel J. Angelo in blue ink.

Carmel J. Angelo
Chief Executive Officer