

Sample Letter Request for Support- SB 1073 (Gonzalez)

[Organization Letterhead]

Please send a copy to Jess Moran at Jmoran@childrenspartnership.org

[DATE]

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 4203
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1073 (Gonzalez) – WIC and Medi-Cal Expedited Enrollment- SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Pan:

The [ORGANIZATION NAME] writes in support of SB 1073 (Gonzalez), which would direct the Department of Health Care Services to collaborate with the California Department of Public Health to identify and expedite enrollment for those young children and pregnant women in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) who are not yet enrolled in Medi-Cal. Similarly, the departments would also be directed to identify and expedite enrollment for those Medi-Cal participants who qualify for WIC services but are not yet enrolled. As a first step to coordinating and streamlining WIC and Medi-Cal enrollment systems, this bill would also direct the department to conduct a feasibility study report to assess and design enrollment system interfaces to expedite enrollment for WIC and Medi-Cal when families are applying.

[ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]

Further, to counter the “chilling effect” of federal public charge rules on enrollment in vital health programs that families qualify for, we need smart and intentional enrollment strategies that let eligible families know the doors to services, they are eligible for, are still open to them. One efficient strategy is to identify large numbers of already eligible children and pregnant women known to the State, and provide expedited enrollment in one program by using eligibility information already collected by another state program.

Medi-Cal and WIC serve the same populations—low-income pregnant women and children under the age of six, regardless of immigration status, and thus, the programs have similar eligibility criteria. Yet about 87,000 young children and 11,000 pregnant

women enrolled in WIC do not have Medi-Cal¹, despite their eligibility. At the same time, over 512,000 Medi-Cal children are eligible for WIC, but not enrolled.²

[INSERT IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO YOUR WORK.]

Lastly, early prenatal care as well as preventive well-child care and nutrition early in a child's life is critically important to ensuring healthy childhood development. Thus, connecting young children and pregnant women with services at their earliest contact places more California children on the right path to healthy a future.

For these reasons, [ORGANIZATION] supports SB 1073 (Gonzalez) and would request your AYE vote.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATORY]
[WORK TITLE]

Cc: Members, Senate Health Committee
Senator Lena Gonzalez, Author

¹ California Department of Public Health data inquiry, September 2018.

² California Department of Public Health correspondence sharing DHCS/CDPH data match, 2019.