**…………………………………………… ..Sample Support Letter – AB 2402 (Rubio)**

***Submit via the online advocates portal:*** [***https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/***](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

***Please send a copy to ktesta@childrenspartnership.org***

INSERT YOUR LETTERHEAD

[Date of Submission]

The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair

Assembly Appropriations Committee

1021 O Street, Suite 5650

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2402 (Rubio) Medi-Cal: continuous eligibility – Support**

 *Assembly Appropriations Committee*

Dear Assemblyman Holden,

On behalf of [INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] I am writing in support of AB 2402 (Rubio), which will stabilize coverage and continuity of care for Medi-Cal children up to age 5 by providing multi-year continuous eligibility. This is similar to the 12-month continuous Medi-Cal coverage children currently have, whereby children maintain coverage regardless of changes in eligibility within their first year of life.

Currently, about 9 percent or 100,000 young Medi-Cal children have gaps in their coverage, mostly due to administrative hurdles. When children have gaps in coverage, it is difficult to receive the regular well child care– 14 visits recommended in the first 5 year of life. These gaps contribute to Medi-Cal’s dismally low pediatric preventive care rates, including well-child visits and screenings. The pandemic has exacerbated these low rates. Well-child preventive care is critically important to early childhood development when 90 percent of brain development occurs.

Gaps in coverage are inefficient, requiring families to re-apply if coverage is terminated even when the child still qualifies. This is especially problematic as most of these children remain eligible, however are dropped for reasons outside of eligibility such as paperwork delays or moving from one county to another. Disruptions in coverage lead to disruptions in care, which in early stages of life jeopardize long term health, which yields higher costs. Conversely, this bill will address this inefficiency and stabilize coverage to support continuous care.

Because Medi-Cal is the primary source of coverage for children of color in Black, Latinx, and Native American communities, Medi-Cal’s low preventive care rates disproportionately deprives children of color of essential health services, exacerbating child health inequities.

Studies demonstrate inconsistent coverage leads to a higher likelihood of unmet medical needs and a lower likelihood of having a usual source of care and access to well-child care. AB 2402 will address these gaps in access for California’s youngest children, improving their health during their early childhood into the future. Therefore, [INSERT ORGANIZATION’S NAME] supports AB 2402 and urges an Aye vote on the measure.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[ORGANIZATION]