EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

State of California
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

DIANA S. DOOLEY
SECRETARY

Aging

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Emergency Medical Services Authority

Health Care Services

Managed Health Care

Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board

Public Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

State Hospitals

Statewide Health Planning and Development

February 6, 2013

The Honorable Susan Bonilla
California State Assembly, Rm. 4140
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Richard Pan
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm. 6005
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Robert Blumenfield
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm. 6026
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Mike Gatto
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm. 2114
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Ed Hernandez
Chair, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm. 2080
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Kevin deLeon
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm. 5108
Sacramento CA, 95814

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
State Capitol Building, Rm. 5100
Sacramento CA, 95814

Dear Honorable Members and Chairpersons,

Pursuant to AB 1296, Bonilla, Chapter 641, Statutes of 2011, the California Health and Human Services Agency is submitting the following information reflecting the stakeholder process and policy work directed by AB 1296 to assist in the development and implementation of the eligibility, enrollment, and retention system for health care coverage as we continue to work towards compliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Since March of last year, we have worked in collaboration with the Department of Health Care Services, the Department of Finance, Covered California, legislative staff, Western Center on Law and Poverty and the California Welfare Directors Association to organize the *AB 1296 and Eligibility Expansion Stakeholder Group* (AB 1296 stakeholder group).

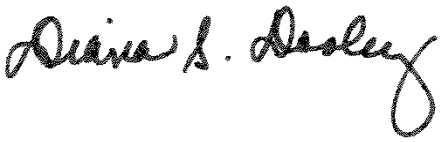
1600 Ninth Street · Room 460 · Sacramento, CA 95814 · Telephone (916) 654-3454 · Fax (916) 654-3343
Internet Address: www.chhs.ca.gov

This group held several meetings and workshops with organizations and interested stakeholders who had been identified by the planning group as interested and willing to participate or to share expertise on this complex subject matter. The information gleaned in these discussions is intended to assist the state in preparing for and implementing the provisions of the ACA.

As outlined in the statute, the AB 1296 stakeholder group meetings focused on the following topics: eligibility, data collection and confidentiality, health plan selection, presumptive eligibility and "deemed" infants, and application forms and renewal. The meeting agendas were planned to first present a comparison of existing state law and new federal provisions including where the ACA sets forth different policy options and allows states to consider and choose. Secondly, the meetings included discussions led by advocates and others communicating their recommendations for the state to consider. Finally, DHCS established an AB 1296 stakeholder group website where all meeting agendas, materials and written work products of the group are posted. For example, a draft "crosswalk" describing potential policy changes needed to implement new eligibility requirements and options under the ACA and AB 1296 was produced and is posted on the website at DHCS. This website can be found at http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/ACA-MCEligEnrollSimplifications.aspx

It is important to note that because these stakeholder meetings occurred prior to the June Supreme Court ruling on the ACA, the underlying assumption during this process was that the Medicaid expansion was fully mandatory. Notwithstanding the effect of the Supreme Court decision on that underlying assumption, the AB 1296 stakeholder group accomplished important foundational work to the process that continues even now as we engage on these complex and difficult issues around eligibility, enrollment and retention. As we work towards implementation of the Medicaid expansion, both mandatory and optional as outlined in the Governor's 2013-14 budget, we will continue to rely on this critical stakeholder input.

Sincerely,



Diana S. Dooley
Secretary

CC:
Toby Douglas, Director, Department of Health Care Services
Senator Bill Monning, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services