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Today we are pleased to share our draft of the [Concept Paper for California's proposed section 1115 Medicaid waiver](#). This waiver will replace the current 1115 waiver entitled Medi-Cal Hospital/Uninsured Care Demonstration, which expires on August 31, 2010.

The concept paper presents our goals and strategies for a new waiver. This waiver presents the best opportunity for advancing the goals of ABx4 6: strengthen California's health care safety net; reduce the number of uninsured individuals; optimize opportunities to increase federal financial participation; promote long-term, efficient, and effective use of state and local funds; improve health care quality and outcomes; and promote home and community-based care. And it will advance these goals without relying on any new general fund spending.

We plan to submit this paper to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in November. It provides a framework to start waiver discussions with the federal government.

Between November 2009 and August 2010, California will work with CMS to develop, finalize, and secure approval of the new waiver. Aspects of the waiver may change from what is presented in the concept paper to reflect our work with CMS. The final waiver will reflect these changes. During the same time period, we will meet with a stakeholder committee that will inform the development of a waiver implementation plan and provide ongoing advice to the state during the term of the waiver. Details are available on the [Stakeholder Process document](#).

We are interested in your comments and suggestions regarding the concept paper. We will hold a public discussion of the concept paper on **Monday, November 2, 2009, from 1 to 4 PM** at the Department of Health Care Services' auditorium at 1500 Capitol Avenue. Our Executive Management team will present the concept paper and respond to questions, comments, and concerns from participants. We will use stakeholder feedback to revise the concept paper before it is submitted to CMS. The discussion is open to all interested participants, and an invitation is available on the [Save the Date document](#). You may also send questions, comments, and concerns to our waiver renewal e-mail address at WaiverRenewal@dhcs.ca.gov.

Thank you for your continued interest.

David Maxwell-Jolly
Director