STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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February 25, 1994

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 94-18

ACCESS FOR INFANTS AND MOTHERS (AIM) PROGRAM UPDATE

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) 93-05; 91-109

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that the State of California, Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board has implemented a temporary suspension of new Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) Program enrollment effective January 31, 1994 until at least July 1, 1994.

As you may know, the AIM Program provides affordable low-cost insurance coverage to the uninsured population of low-income pregnant women and infants who have income which does not exceed 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These applicants may not qualify for Medi-Cal because of excess assets, or they may have income which would require them to pay a share of cost.

According to the AIM Program, the reason for the temporary suspension is that the program's enrollment will exceed state funding limits after January 31, 1994. However, if approved by the Legislature as part of the Proposition 99 funding reauthorization, the AIM Program would start enrolling new women again in approximately July 1994. It should be noted that, as a result of this current suspension of new AIM Program enrollment, it is likely that counties may experience an increase in applications for Medi-Cal by pregnant women who may have previously been interested in the AIM Program. This temporary suspension of new AIM enrollment does not impact health care coverage for those women and infants currently enrolled in the program. This group of eligibles will continue to be covered for services as stipulated in the AIM Program, including the full two years of infant coverage.

The AIM Program will not maintain a waiting list of interested applicants due to the concern that some pregnant women may delay seeking prenatal care in anticipation of the re-opening AIM. However, the AIM Program will respond to each pregnant applicant advising her to contact her local county welfare department to determine if she qualifies for the Medi-Cal program.

Please provide this AIM Program information to your staff as soon as possible to ensure they do not refer applicants to AIM after January 31, 1994. If you have any questions regarding the AIM Program, please

contact Mr. Richard Figueroa of the AIM Program at (916) 324-4695. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lisa Reagan of my staff at (916) 657-3719.

Sincerely,

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Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch