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**Brian Lee, J.D.**



*Hundreds of Police Chiefs,  
Sheriffs, District Attorneys,  
other  
Law Enforcement  
Executives, and*

March 9, 2015

Re: Section 1115 Waiver & Home Visiting

Dear Department of Health Care Services:

On behalf of 400 California police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys and crime victims, I write to encourage you to include voluntary home visiting programs such as Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) in the Section 1115 Waiver plan.

NFP nurses visit at-risk mothers at home to provide coaching in parenting skills, from the prenatal period until their child is 2 years old at home. Rigorous research originally published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* shows that children of mothers in the program had 48 percent fewer substantiated reports of abuse or neglect. Put another way: Home visiting services can prevent nearly half of all cases of abuse or neglect among at-risk children. In addition, by the time the youth reached age 15, children of participating mothers had 59 percent fewer arrests than the kids of mothers left out of the program.

NFP also can provide cost-saving health outcomes. Among California NFP enrollees, 92% of babies were born full term, 92% were born at a healthy weight, 91% of children received all recommended immunizations by 24 months, and 92% of mothers initiated breastfeeding. An evaluation concluded that every dollar spent on NFP in California can yield \$4.20 in return, including substantial cost savings to Medicaid.

Unfortunately, funding limitations limit the number of young mothers who can benefit from programs like NFP, with few enrolled of the approximately 100,000 California babies born annually who could benefit from NFP. Moreover, California cannot serve more families by spreading existing state and local resources because Medi-Cal only can be used to support specific components of the program (i.e., case management), rather than being used to support the entire program as a preventive service.

Including home visiting programs like NFP in the California Section 1115 Waiver will enable full Medi-Cal support for these programs, resulting in more young mothers served and more positive health and crime-prevention outcomes. Federal support is likely given that NFP is part of the Section 1115 Waiver in both New York and Texas. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Lee  
State Director

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