



April 10, 2025

Rafael Davtian, Deputy Director, Health Care Financing  
Alek Klimek, Assistant Deputy Director, Health Care Financing  
Department of Health Care Services  
1501 Capitol Ave.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Statement of Interest to Serve as Chairperson of the Protect Access to Health Care Act Stakeholder Advisory Committee (PAHCA-SAC)**

Dear Rafael, Alek, and DHCS PAHCA-SAC Team,

The Protect Access to Health Care Stakeholder Advisory Committee (PAHCA-SAC) has a critical charge, which is to support implementation of a transformational level of new investments in the Medi-Cal program through dedicated revenue from California's MCO Tax. The PAHCA-SAC will be instrumental in providing recommendations to DHCS about how to most effectively implement provider rate increases, and in so doing, will need to consider the feasibility of different Medi-Cal financing approaches, expediency of implementation, and – *most importantly* – ensuring that the funding mechanisms will improve access and quality of care for the millions of Californians that rely on Medi-Cal.

Appointed by the Assembly Speaker to serve on the PAHCA-SAC as the representative for public, not-for-profit Medi-Cal managed care plans, I am the CEO of the Local Health Plans of California (LHPC), the association for California's 17 local health plans that are an integral part of the Medi-Cal safety net. Local plans serve 70% of all Medi-Cal managed care beneficiaries statewide. My participation on the committee will be informed by local plans' experience in serving Medi-Cal beneficiaries across the state in 51 of 58 counties, and their partnerships with hospitals, clinics, physicians, and other providers to deliver care to their members. My contributions to the committee will also recognize the regional challenges in the Medi-Cal delivery system, including those faced in rural areas of the state where there are significant disparities in access and quality.

My years of experience representing California's local health plans has resulted in a deep understanding of Medi-Cal financing across the spectrum of providers that will ultimately receive enhanced funding through the PAHCA, and who are represented on the PAHCA-SAC. This experience and knowledge – and local plans' key role in partnering with all providers across the entire delivery system – is the reason I seek to serve as the Chairperson of the PAHCA-SAC. Although discussion amongst the members of the PAHCA-SAC will necessarily be technical at

times, we will need to be mindful to not lose sight of the bigger policy goals of the PAHCA and ensure that our recommendations to DHCS about financing structures support those goals.

As Chairperson, I would promote dialogue and education among the committee members, as each member has specific expertise and experience that may inform policy recommendations. I would also support DHCS' process to vet specific proposals and facilitate formal feedback or recommendations from the PAHCA-SAC to DHCS. My goals for the PAHCA-SAC are aligned with its purpose as outlined in the PAHCA, which is to provide research, analysis, and best practices to inform recommendations to DHCS regarding the development of policies for provider rate increases that will support improvements to access and outcomes for Medi-Cal beneficiaries across the state.

I look forward to serving on the PAHCA-SAC and appreciate the consideration of my colleagues to serve as the Chairperson of this important committee.

Sincerely,

## Original Signed by

Linnea Koopmans  
Chief Executive Officer  
Local Health Plans of California