



April 9, 2024

The Honorable Tasha Boerner
California State Assembly District 77
1021 O Street, Suite 4150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2956 (Boerner) Medi-Cal eligibility: redetermination - Support

Dear Assemblymember Boerner,

On behalf of the California State Association of Psychiatrists (CSAP), I write in support of AB 2956, which would adopt 12-month continuous eligibility for adults and preserve federal flexibilities for Medi-Cal to prevent procedural disenrollments.

Not only do gaps in healthcare coverage due to procedural disenrollment prevent vulnerable populations from accessing healthcare and filling prescriptions, it also is a hurdle for low-income Californians to navigate the process of reenrollment and costs the already overburdened services at State and County social service agencies time and money.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, California adopted many federal flexibilities to remove unnecessary barriers and burdens in the renewal process. These changes allowed millions of enrollees to keep access to their healthcare and provided staffing relief to save administrative costs and time. With the public health emergency now lifted, redeterminations have returned as of June 2023 and federal flexibilities are set to sunset in December 2024.

AB 2956 would allow people over the age of 19 to keep their Medi-Cal coverage for a full 12 months, regardless of the changes in their income. Further, it directs California to seek federal approval, when necessary, to make the Medi-Cal flexibilities allowed during the COVID-19 Pandemic permanent to reduce and remedy procedural terminations, simplify the income verification requirements, increase automatic Medi-Cal renewals, and improve program outreach and customer service.

For these reasons, CSAP is pleased to support AB 2956.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yoder', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Paul Yoder
Legislative Advocate

CC: Chair and Members, Assembly Health Committee