

The Honorable Patrick Ahrens
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0026

RE: SUPPORT — AB 2756 (Ahrens), as Amended, Medi-Cal: Vision Services: Performance Measures

Dear Assemblymember Ahrens,

The First 5 Commission of San Luis Obispo County writes in strong **SUPPORT** of **AB 2756, as amended, Medi-Cal: Vision Services: Performance Measures**. First 5 SLO County is dedicated to ensuring children prenatal through age five in San Luis Obispo County are healthy, learning, and developing to their optimal potential, and ready to succeed in school and life.

Vision health is foundational to child development and early learning. Research indicates that a significant majority of classroom learning is visual, yet many children, particularly those enrolled in Medi-Cal, have vision problems that go undiagnosed and untreated. AB 2756 would strengthen accountability within Medi-Cal's vision care services by establishing clear metrics and benchmarks to track access and utilization, enabling policymakers and DHCS to identify gaps and improve outcomes. This bill supports timely identification and treatment of vision issues in young children.

AB 2756 aligns with First 5 SLO County's mission to ensure all children in San Luis Obispo County are healthy, learning, and developing to their optimal potential, and ready to succeed in school and life.

Staff recommend a support position for the following reasons:

- **Supports School Readiness and Early Learning.** Research shows up to 80% of learning is processed visually. Undetected and untreated vision problems are a documented barrier to kindergarten readiness and early literacy.
- **Closes an Accountability Gap Without New Spending.** AB 2756 does not create a new benefit; it ensures a benefit California already funds is actually delivered. Establishing performance measures and public reporting will create accountability to close the 84% gap in vision care access among Medi-Cal children.
- **Centers Equity for Underserved Children.** The bill's requirement for equity-based data stratification will surface disparities by age, race, ethnicity, and geography, leading to targeted strategies to reach the most vulnerable children, including those served in SLO County.
- **Advances Early Intervention.** Early identification leads to early treatment, which reduces long-term health costs and improves child health, development, and learning outcomes.

For these reasons, we are in strong support of **AB 2756**. Thank you for your leadership in advancing these important performance measures.

Sincerely,



Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Chair, First 5 Commission of San Luis Obispo County



Wendy Wendt

Executive Director, First 5 San Luis Obispo County

CC:

Assembly Member Dawn Addis
Assembly Member Gregg Hart
Senator Monique Limón
Senator John Laird