



September 6, 2022

Michelle Baass, Director of the California Department of Health Care Services  
 Jacey Cooper, Chief Deputy Director Health Care Programs & State Medicaid Director  
 Department of Health Care Services  
 1501 Capitol Avenue  
 Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: Letter of Support for Community Health Group

Dear Director Baass and Director Cooper:

We are writing as a group of community health care providers and stakeholders to express our grave concerns regarding the state's decision to eliminate San Diego's only locally based Medi-Cal managed care plan from service in our region.

We are shocked, concerned, and very disappointed that Community Health Group — our strongest partner of 40 years with the highest quality scores of any plan serving Medi-Cal in the county (excluding staff models) — was not selected as one of the health plans for Medi-Cal recipients in the San Diego area.

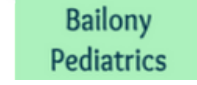
The people Community Health Group serves are our coworkers, friends, and family. A reduction in the quality of their health care will directly harm our entire community.

Community Health Group currently serves more than a third of local Medi-Cal enrollees, representing over 330,000 people — making it the largest and most successful health plan in our county. It has the highest Medi-Cal HEDIS scores in San Diego County and is in the top ten of 56 health plans in California among non-staff model health plans.

Equity is not a buzzword or a new priority for Community Health Group; they have been putting equity into action for four decades. They are based solely in San Diego and have served our culturally and linguistically diverse community for generations, with a staff of which over 85 percent are bilingual and multicultural.

Community Health Group also has the most comprehensive provider network in the county and has always been very accessible and responsive to the needs of our patients and clinicians.

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Perhaps most important is that we work so well with Community Health Group. The California Department of Health Care Services is acutely aware that there is a delicate balance that must be maintained between payers and providers, including community-based organizations and others that are vital to health care delivery. That balance has always been present in our relationship with Community Health Group. Without Community Health Group, we fear that the balance will be destroyed.

We recognize that one of the state's top priorities is innovation in healthcare, particularly to achieve the goal of implementing CalAIM. Our partnership with Community Health Group has minimized disruption of care and allowed all of us to work together to address emerging challenges in the delivery of care to the most sensitive populations. This will become more important and more challenging as we continue to enact CalAIM. While we all work with the other contracted plans, Community Health Group is the steady and community minded partner that has made things work in San Diego.

On behalf of the communities we serve, we strongly encourage the Department of Health Care Services and the administration to find a solution to ensure that Community Health Group remains as a Medi-Cal managed care plan in San Diego. The lives of San Diego residents — especially its most vulnerable, marginalized, and high-need populations — are at stake.

Sincerely,

Kofi D. Sefa-Boakye, MD, Owner  
**A Lady's Doctor**

Meg Murray, Chief Executive Officer  
**ACAP – Association**

Jay Sadrieh, MD, Physician  
**Advanced Pediatric Medical Group**

Scott Coffin, Chief Executive Officer  
**Alameda Alliance for Health – LHPC**

Walter Lam, President & CEO  
**Alliance for African Assistance**

Simin Khadivi, Executive Director  
**Alliance Health Clinic**

Fernanda Ceballos, CFO,  
Administrator & Owner  
**Alpha Plus Home Health**

Kenneth McFarland, Chief Executive Officer  
**Alvarado Hospital Medical Center – Hospital**

Alain Azcona, Chief Executive Officer  
**Aurora Behavioral Health Center San Diego**

Ahmad Bailony, MD, Owner  
**Bailony Pediatrics**

Rachael Ortiz, Executive Director  
**Barrio Station**

Gabriela Cabrero, Owner  
**Bella Vista Health Center – Skilled Nursing Facility**

Karen Rosalie, Executive Director  
**Best Start Birth Center**

Brandon Zora, CEO  
**Black Tiger Transportation**

Rosa MacIsaac, CHFP, Chief Executive Officer  
**Borrego Health – FQHC**

Ismael Cala, President  
**Cala Enterprises – Partner**

Terry Racciato, President  
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**California Medical Behavioral Health**

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**CalOptima Health- LHPC**

Jeffrey Nkansah, Chief Executive Officer  
**CalViva Health - LHPC**

Mehran Moussavian, MD  
**Cardiovascular Institute of San Diego, Inc.**

Iyabo O. Daramola, Medical Director  
**Caring Hearts Medical Clinic**

Marina Owen, Chief Executive Officer  
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Stephanie Sonnenshine,  
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**Central California Alliance for Health - LHPC**

Julie Wohlstein, President  
**Centrix**

Adam Dyoniziak, Chief Executive Officer  
**Champions for Health**

Stephen H. Carson, MD, Pediatrician  
**Children's Healthcare Medical Associates**

Mary Salas, Mayor  
**City of Chula Vista**

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**Clinica Medica De La Mora, Inc.**

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**Community Health Systems, Inc - FQHC**

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**Grimaldi Urology**

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**Jamacha Urgent Medical Center**

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**John Foley Center**  
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**Kafri Heart and Vascular Clinic**

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**Kanna Advisory Group – Partner**

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**Kinder Scientific – Partner**

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Teresita Barbadillo, MD, Physician  
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Marcos Borrero, MD, Physician  
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**San Francisco Health Plan - LHPC**

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**San Ysidro Health - FQHC**

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**Santa Clara Family Health Plan - LHPC**

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President & Chief Executive Officer  
**Sharp HealthCare - Hospital**

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**Synergy Orthopedics**

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**Vista Community Clinic - FQHC**