DAVE CORTESE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING
70 WEST HEDDING STREET, 10TH FLOOR
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110
TEL: (408) 299-5030 FAX: (408) 298-6637
dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org • www.supervisorcortese.org

April 8, 2015

Andrew Slavitt, Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

RE: California's Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver Renewal – SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Slavitt:

The County of Santa Clara is writing in support of California's Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver Renewal document. The Department of Health Care Services waiver renewal document builds on the successes of the "Bridge to Reform" Medicaid Waiver and continues the transformation of the Medi-Cal program. With the Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver Renewal, California will continue to be a national leader in Medicaid expansion and innovation and a strong partner with your agency.

The County of Santa Clara owns and operates the second largest public hospital system in California, the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System (SCVHHS). Our hospital and health system serves over 220,000 patients every year and provide critical regional services such as burn and trauma care, traumatic brain injury treatment, rehabilitation, and neonatal intensive care unit services. SCVHHS anticipates providing over 600,000 doctor visits this year.

Under the "Bridge to Reform" Waiver, SCVHHS expanded access and improved care for county residents, including:

- Enrollment of 20,000 people into the Low-Income Health Program (LIHP), providing individuals with needed health services, AND successful transition of LIHP enrollees to Medi-Cal on the first day of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expansion.
- Development and expansion of important patient safety programs:

- ✓ Reduced mortality from sepsis infection by more than 50%.
- ✓ Decreased central-line bloodstream infections by 51% in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- ✓ Expanded our chronic care model, identifying patients in need of diabetic or mammography screening. It is now operational in 86% of our medical homes.

With these successes in mind, there are a number of important elements that the County of Santa Clara strongly supports in the waiver renewal proposal, including:

- **Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) Successor.** The County of Santa Clara supports the inclusion of a Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) successor that will allow us to continue important transformational work, continue to improve outcomes, and increase efficiencies. The hard work of the system transformation begun in the last five years is not over. Specifically, the Public Safety Net System Transformation and Improvement Program will allow us to redesign our specialty services to enhance communication between primary care and specialty care, with the goals of improving patient satisfaction and timely access to care.

- **Transforming California's Public Safety Net for the Remaining Uninsured.** Even after full implementation of the ACA, roughly 3 million Californians – 150,000 of which are Santa Clara County residents – will remain uninsured, and we have a mission to serve them. Medi-Cal 2020 includes an innovative concept for transforming California's public safety net for the remaining uninsured by creating Global Payments. The Global Payments proposal offers a unique opportunity for California to serve as an incubator to test new payment methods for delivering care to the uninsured and in transforming care away from high cost settings – like emergency rooms – toward primary care.

- **Whole Person Care.** The waiver also provides opportunities for improving care coordination through a county-based Whole Person Care pilot, with the goal of improving health outcomes for high utilizers of multiple systems – including frequent utilizers of emergency departments. Working with local health plans, county agencies and social service providers, we would collectively identify our target population and develop targeted care plans including health, behavioral health, social services and housing supports. The County of Santa Clara strongly supports the inclusion of whole person care pilots in the waiver proposal.

We realize that California's waiver renewal negotiations with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are just beginning and will be ongoing in the months to come. We are hopeful that your discussions are productive and lead to the continued transformation of our state's public safety net systems.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese
President, Board of Supervisors

c: Victoria Wachino, Acting Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services