

RESOLUTION NO. 24-213

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 35: PROVIDES
PERMANENT FUNDING FOR MEDI-CAL HEALTH
CARE SERVICES INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, California’s Medicaid program, “Medi-Cal” provides access to healthcare services for over 14 million California residents, including more than 160,000 individuals and 60,000 children in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department operates 5 Federally Qualified Health Centers and 3 homeless shelter-based clinics, in the communities of Santa Maria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria, offering a wide variety of services including primary care; and

WHEREAS, according to the County Public Health Department, Medi-Cal enrollment in Santa Barbara County has increased by 123% since 2012, and in that same time period, the number of Medi-Cal members assigned by CenCal Health, our local Managed Care Organization, to Public Health clinics has increased from 12,959 in 2012 to 29,879 in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the increases in Medi-Cal members assigned to County Public Health Clinics have necessitated growth in County staffing levels and enhanced medical facilities’ needs; and

WHEREAS, studies have found that across the State, low reimbursement rates and an expanded Medi-Cal program, have resulted in a large number of new Medi-Cal members while at the same time, fewer and fewer doctors willing to take on new patients unless the program pays more for their services; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the State of California has created significant additional funding for Medi-Cal by charging a specific levy on certain managed care organizations in the State, known as the “Managed Care Organization Provider Tax,” which California can then use to draw down matching Medicaid funds from the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, the State of California’s Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget included a Managed Care Organization Provider Tax for only the period of 2023-2026, and without action, the existing tax would end in 2027; and

WHEREAS, California has redirected more than \$30 billion in health care funding over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 35 would create an ongoing funding stream for Medi-Cal and other health programs, with revenue subject to ongoing independent financial audits and administrative costs capped at 1 percent; and

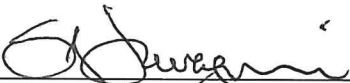
WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 35 would allow for Medi-Cal reimbursement rates to rise, which studies have found promote greater participation among doctors and health care providers; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Proposition 35 would create additional funding streams to Santa Barbara County departments, as well as funding streams that local providers including Cottage Health, Dignity Health, and Lompoc Valley Medical Center could potentially access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors finds that there are numerous benefits to the health of all County residents to enhancing participation in Medi-Cal from as many medical providers as possible, and resolves to support Proposition 35: Managed Care Organization Tax Authorization Initiative.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 1ST day of October, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Williams, Capps and Hartmann
NOS: None
ABSTAIN: Supervisors Nelson and Lavagnino
ABSENT: None



Steve Lavagnino, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
MONA MIYASATO
COUNTY
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By: 
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: 

Deputy County Counsel