CHC
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January 15, 2013

Peter Lee, Executive Director
Covered California
560 J Street, Suite 290
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: *Covered CA Assisters Program and Stakeholder Engagement Process*

Dear Mr. Lee:

On behalf of the undersigned *Covering Kids & Families* and *LA Access to Health Coverage* coalition partners, as well as other interested stakeholders, we write to request increased public transparency in the design and development of the *Covered California Assisters Program* and the meaningful engagement of stakeholders in this process.

Covered CA is one of the most important "public utilities" to be established in decades. While we commend staff's efforts to involve stakeholders in the majority of Covered CA's work, the last detailed update regarding the assisters program was provided at the June 2012 Board meeting. We are extremely concerned by the limited information afforded to stakeholders since that time. We understand that the January 17th Board meeting includes an "Assisters Program Partnerships" update. We respectfully request that the following information be addressed as part of this update by your staff:

1. Key decisions that have been made
2. Outstanding issues still being considered
3. Efforts to obtain funding for assisters to support Medi-Cal enrollment.

In addition, CHC and our coalition partners can offer a wealth of knowledge and expertise gained from years of working with children and families in diverse communities. Many stakeholders have extensive backgrounds on training enrollment staff and can provide lessons learned on effective training methods and strategies to guarantee the Assisters Program meets the needs of all consumers. Whereas we understand the state has just created the "Marketing, Outreach and Assistance Workgroup" that will discuss the assisters program, ***we recommend that a subgroup be established to provide input on the training portion of the Assistors Program***. This will help guarantee the integrity and success of the program.

We thank you and your staff for your attention to this matter. CHC and the undersigned organizations look forward to working with you, Covered California staff, and RHA staff to engage stakeholders in the development of the assisters program. Should you require any further assistance, please feel free to contact Sonya Vasquez, Policy Director, at svasquez@chc-inc.org or 323-295-9372 ext. 235.

Sincerely,

Lark Galloway-Gilliam, MPA
Executive Director

**Signatures**

Marie S. Jones, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Community Research Initiatives
*AltaMed Health Services Corporation*

Suzie Shupe, Executive Director
*California Coverage and Health Initiatives*

Carmela Castellano-Garcia, Esq., President and CEO
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Alice Ricks
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Cathy Frey, MHA, CEO
*Central Valley Health Network*

Mike Odeh, Senior Associate, Health Policy
*Children Now*

Jamila Edwards, Executive Director
*Children's Defense Fund - California*

Tara L. Dooley, Program Manager
*Children's Health Initiative of Santa Barbara*

Amy Kelley
*Healthy Kids Healthy Future and Placer Coverage and Health Initiative*

Chad M. Silva, JD, Policy Director
*Latino Coalition for a Healthy California*

Jonathan Ronald Tran, CA Policy and Program Manager
*Southeast Asia Resource Action Center*

Felix Aguilar, MD, MPH, MHCM, President and CEO
*UMMA Community Clinic*

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Elizabeth Benson Forer, MSW/MPH, Chief Executive Officer
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