

# State of California HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



DIANA S. DOOLEY  
SECRETARY

March 14, 2013

The Honorable Ed Hernandez  
California State Senate  
State Capitol Building, Room 2080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Hernandez:

Aging

Alcohol and  
Drug Programs

Child Support  
Services

Community Services  
and Development

Developmental  
Services

Emergency Medical  
Services Authority

Health Care Services

Managed Health Care

Managed Risk  
Medical Insurance Board

Public Health

Rehabilitation

Social Services

State Hospitals

Statewide Health  
Planning and  
Development

The Administration is pleased to sponsor your Special Session legislation, Senate Bill (SB) X1 3, which would establish a Bridge Program in Covered California pending federal approval. In calling for the Special Session on Health Care Reform Implementation, the Governor specifically stated that options to allow low-cost health coverage to individuals with incomes up to 200% of federal poverty level within Covered California as allowed by federal law should be considered; therefore we are pleased to support your measure which would do just that.

We believe the Bridge Program will promote continuity of care and coverage by creating an affordable product for lower income Californians who are eligible for tax subsidies. This program is consistent with federal guidance related to this continuity principal in that it would allow Californians transitioning from Medi-Cal or Medi-Cal/CHIP coverage to Covered California to stay with the same health plan or issuer and provider network. Family members could also be covered by a single health plan or issuer with the same provider network. Continuity of care and coverage along with affordability are critical to ensuring high enrollment of low-income individuals in Covered California.

SB X1 3 also reflects our commitment to timely implementation of health care reform by providing for these low cost options to be offered as soon as possible. The immediate Bridge program would be implemented in 2014 as we continue to work with our Covered California and federal partners to develop a proposal to expand the eligibility for a broader Bridge plan.

I appreciate your collaboration with the Administration on this effort, and look forward to working closely with you to successfully enact this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana S. Dooley'.

Diana Dooley  
Secretary

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cc: Peter V. Lee, Executive Director, Covered California  
David Panush, Director of Government Relations, Covered California  
Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office  
Brent Barnhart, Director, Department of Managed Health Care  
Sherrie Lowenstein, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Managed Health Care  
Scott Bain, Consultant, Senate Committee on Health