



December 22, 2016

The Honorable Edmund Brown
Governor
State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Coordinated Care Initiative

Dear Governor Brown,

The undersigned consumer advocacy organizations write to voice our concerns with the potential termination of California's Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI). The CCI is California's largest effort to transform its health care delivery system into a model that is integrated, coordinated, and person-centered, and the Cal MediConnect program is the largest dual demonstration project in the country.

The CCI has proven to be a substantial undertaking with no shortage of challenges. Under the program, over 1.2 million low-income seniors and persons with disabilities have gone through a significant transition in the way they receive their health care. That transition has been a difficult one for many beneficiaries and stakeholders. While early survey results show that many enrollees are satisfied with their care under the program, the program continues to face problems with providing better access to long-term services and supports and coordination of care.

Despite these challenges, consumer advocates are very concerned by the Governor's Budget Summary in January 2016 that if the program is not cost effective, it "would automatically cease operation in the following fiscal year." The dismantling of the program would represent yet another disruption in care to the 1.2 million beneficiaries enrolled in the program. It would only be appropriate to take such action after the state has worked with stakeholders to develop a thorough alternative plan to maintain continuity to benefits and providers that advances the goals of the CCI – a more coordinated, integrated, person-centered delivery system that shifts the delivery of LTSS from intuitional to home and community based settings. Moving to

dismantle the CCI without such an alternative in place would be tantamount to repealing without replacing.

California's aging population is expected to nearly double by 2050, and poverty rates among seniors and persons with disabilities will continue to rise. The need for a fully integrated, person-centered delivery system is critical to providing quality health care and reducing health care spending. In the absence of any other plan or proposal that would attempt to advance these goals, California should commit to improving and strengthening the CCI program for existing enrollees not dismantling it.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and our concerns. Please feel free to contact us to discuss in more detail.

Sincerely,

Kevin Prindiville, Executive Director
Justice in Aging

Gregory E. Knoll, Esq.
CCI Cal MediConnect Ombudsman Program

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