



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Marc Berman
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2941 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am pleased to offer our support for your Assembly Bill 2941, relating to health coverage during a declared state of emergency. RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

In 2017, Governor Brown issued four states of emergencies covering 13 counties. In each of these instances, the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) issued All Plan Letters to every health plan operating in the counties where the state of emergency was declared, to ensure that patients have continued appropriate access to medically necessary health care services they need.

Under AB 2941, a health plan and health insurer would be required to ensure that patients, who have been displaced by a state of emergency, have continued appropriate access to medically necessary health care services. Specifically, AB 2941 would codify in Health and Safety Code DMHC's existing practice to ensure continued access to medically necessary health care services when there is a Governor proclaimed state of emergency. AB 2941 would also bring parity to the Insurance Code by allowing the California Department of Insurance the ability to ensure that patients maintain access to medically necessary health care services in the limited circumstance of a state of emergency. Given the emergency and disaster risks in California, particularly in rural California where access to health care is more challenging, AB 2941 ensures individuals and families with health insurance can access health care.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

The Honorable Marc Berman
Assembly Bill 2941
March 20, 2018
Page 2

For the above reasons, RCRC supports your AB 2941. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding RCRC's position, please do not hesitate to contact me at trhine@rcrcnet.org or (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,



TRACY RHINE
Legislative Advocate

cc: Members of the Assembly Health Committee
Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Kristene Mapile, Assembly Health Committee
Frank Prewoznick, Assembly Republican Caucus