December 6, 2016

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Affordable Care Act.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Adopt Resolution opposing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

SUMMARY: Last month, the fourth Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollment period started. During the first three enrollment periods, more than 50,000 applications for insurance were approved in Marin. Of those applicants, approximately 12,000 residents are currently enrolled in a qualified health plan through Covered California, a marketplace for affordable, quality health insurance options. The remaining applicants are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

The ACA expanded Medicaid eligibility to nearly all non-elderly adults with incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) – about $16,396 per year for an individual in 2016. During the first three enrollment periods, Marin County Medi-Cal enrollment nearly doubled from 20,154 to 38,843. Of those currently enrolled in Medi-Cal, 24,563 are adults, and 14,280 are children. The law provided for 100% federal funding for the expansion through 2016, declining gradually to 90% in 2020 and beyond. This funding has resulted in approximately $77 million annually in federal dollars for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in Marin County.

A repeal of the ACA, as championed by the incoming Trump Administration, would risk removing the new eligibility pathways created for adults, increasing the number of uninsured and reducing the amount of federal Medicaid funds available to the County of Marin.

Health and Human Services (HHS) is monitoring both federal and state health care policy and funding. HHS has an unwavering commitment to helping all residents secure access to quality health care, to strengthening our service delivery systems, to building stronger community partnerships and to achieving health equity.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS: The ACA, through Medi-Cal expansion, Covered California, consumer protections, and quality improvement initiatives, has increased access to affordable, high-quality health insurance for tens of thousands of Marin County residents. We believe policy measures as currently outlined by the incoming Administration would have a serious, detrimental effect on community health and be a measure setback for our goal to achieve health equity.
FISCAL IMPACT: Based upon revenue from Medi-Cal expansion alone, at least $77 million per year in federal funding will be lost for Marin Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

REVIEWED BY:  
County Administrator  [X]  [ ]  N/A  
Department of Finance  [ ]  [X]  N/A  
County Counsel  [ ]  [X]  N/A  
Human Resources  [ ]  [X]  N/A

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Grant Nash Colfax, MD  
Director