



ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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June 01, 2020

The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair
Assembly Committee on Budget
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUPPORT: Assemblymember Rob Bonta's Budget Request for Medically Supportive Food

Dear Assemblymember Ting,

I am writing on behalf of the Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association (ACCMA) – representing nearly 5,000 East Bay physicians – in support of Assemblymember Rob Bonta's budget request of \$500,000 to fund a pilot project in Alameda County which provides Medically Supportive Food, also known as Food as Medicine, to Medi-Cal recipients with chronic health conditions.

The pilot will improve the health of Medi-Cal beneficiaries, particularly those who experience health disparities under the current system and save lives and money under the COVID-19 pandemic. This is especially important considering the disproportionate impact it is having on low income households and communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, and API communities. The CDC has found that nearly 90% of those hospitalized have an underlying health condition. By addressing those conditions, we can save money, reduce hospitalizations and death, and strengthen the health resiliency of the most vulnerable.

Medically Supportive Food, also known as Food is Medicine, is an effective intervention to prevent, reverse and manage chronic diseases including diabetes and hypertension. Studies show it can significantly lower blood pressure and A1c levels (a marker for diabetes), as well as reduce heart disease complications from diabetes, ER visits and hospitalizations.

Thank you for your consideration of this trailblazing initiative.

Sincerely,

Katrina Peters, MD
President

cc: Assemblyman Rob Bonta
Andrea Margolis, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1