

May 27, 2026

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, representing Sacramento County physicians, we write to express concern over potential reduced funding and staffing within the Sacramento County Department of Health Services (DHS).

We recognize the fiscal challenges facing local governments and appreciate the complexity of the decisions before you. At the same time, we are concerned that reductions affecting administrative staffing, particularly those supporting Medi-Cal eligibility, renewals, and immunization services, may have unintended consequences for patient access to care.

Many of these programs do not lose eligibility when funding is limited; instead, they lose the capacity to function effectively. When staffing levels are insufficient to process applications, renewals, and service coordination, otherwise eligible patients face delays in accessing care. This results in gaps in preventive services, interruptions in treatment, and increased reliance on emergency departments for conditions that could have been managed earlier and more appropriately.

Timely access to care, including preventive services such as immunizations, is essential for both individual patient outcomes and broader public health. Especially when considering threats from hantavirus and Ebola, in addition to reduced resources at the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We respectfully urge the Board to prioritize adequate staffing levels responsible for eligibility processing and access to core health services. Protecting this administrative infrastructure is a cost-effective way to ensure continuity of care, reduce avoidable emergency utilization, and support the health of Sacramento County residents.

As physicians, we remain committed partners in advancing the health of our community and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on solutions that protect access to care for everyone in our community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roderick Vitangcol, MD
President
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society