



Statement from CenCal Health on Medicaid Policy

California's Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal, provides essential health coverage for over 15 million people from all walks of life. On the Central Coast, Medicaid is administered by CenCal Health, serving our Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo communities. Today, one in every three residents of Santa Barbara County and one in every four in San Luis Obispo County is enrolled.

Recently, Congress passed legislation reducing funding to the Medicaid program by \$1 trillion nationally over the next ten years. While difficult to predict with certainty what these proposals mean specifically for the Central Coast today, we can estimate based on policy in the final bill that thousands of individuals will no longer qualify for health insurance coverage and millions of dollars may no longer be available to safety-net providers in our community as federal Medicaid policies phase in over the next several years. We know that high quality, accessible healthcare plays a foundational role in community well-being. Affordable health insurance is critical towards that aim.

CenCal Health began over 40 years ago as the Santa Barbara Health Initiative – one of the nation's first community-managed health plans. We partner with over 1,800 physicians to fulfill our not-for-profit mission and rank among the highest quality programs in the state. The services we provide play a vital role in promoting the health of our community, arranging for life-saving care to some of our most vulnerable residents in their time of greatest need.

CenCal Health remains steadfast in the pursuit of the vision that our communities thrive and achieve optimal health together. As an organization who values compassionate service, we also remain committed to supporting our members and providers through a model that is publicly governed and directly accountable to the communities we serve. Looking ahead, CenCal Health will share information with our members, providers and local stakeholders in the weeks and months to follow. Partnerships matter and our community can expect that we will embrace our role as convener, educator, supporter and implementer of new policies in collaboration with our dedicated partners.

Now and always, our mission is to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Marina Owen, CEO
CenCal Health