

March 30, 2020

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Executive Director  
Betsy Butler

The Honorable Jim Wood  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB2729 (Bauer-Kahan) Whole Health Access for Pregnant Persons –  
SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

On behalf of the California Women's Law Center (CWLC), we write in support of AB 2729, an important piece of legislation that will greatly improve the health outcomes of pregnant people in California.

The Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women (PE4PW) program is designed for pregnant people to get immediate, temporary Medi-Cal coverage while applying for full-scope Medi-Cal. Early and regular prenatal care has been shown to improve health outcomes for pregnant people and infants, such as improved birth rate and decreased risk of preterm delivery.

Currently, PE4PW only provides patients with access to "pregnancy related" services and prescriptions. This means that pregnant patients are often denied coverage for basic health care treatments for needs that are deemed not related to their pregnancy, and may have to forgo medical care or pay out of pocket for those services.

AB2729 modernizes the PE4PW program. First, it expands the program so that eligible pregnant people have the option to access all medications and services that are covered under full-scope Medi-Cal. Second, it ensures that a pregnant person is covered under PE4PW until they are enrolled in full-scope Medi-Cal benefits or denied. Finally, it will update the program name to "Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant People (PE4PP)", a term more inclusive to non-binary, transgender, and gender non-conforming Californians.

CWLC's mission is to break down barriers and advance the potential of women and girls through transformative litigation, policy advocacy, and education. We prioritize healthcare access and work to ensure that all Californians have access to high-quality, comprehensive healthcare, including prenatal care, regardless of their income or gender.

For these reasons, the California Women's Law Center supports SB 1237.

Sincerely,



Betsy Butler  
Executive Director