

February 12, 2024

Department of Health Care Services  
Director's Office  
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Sent Via Email: [1115Waiver@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:1115Waiver@dhs.ca.gov)



**John Baackes**  
Chief Executive Officer

**RE: CalAIM Section 1115 Continuous Coverage for Children Application**

On behalf of L.A. Care Health Plan, the nation's largest public health plan with more than 2.3 million Medi-Cal and CHIP enrollees, I am writing to express my strong support for the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Demonstration Amendment Request. This Amendment Request, if approved by CMS, would provide continuous eligibility and federal funding for eligible children up through age four enrolled in Medi-Cal and CHIP programs.

California has consistently championed access to healthcare, recognizing the detrimental effects of coverage disruptions. To prevent churning in the Medi-Cal program, the state has implemented initiatives like simplifying renewal processes, extending eligibility periods, and providing outreach support. This proposed amendment to provide continuous coverage for children through four years of age builds upon these successes and would further stabilize healthcare access to children during key developmental years.

L.A. Care has a long history in supporting the state's efforts in providing comprehensive healthcare access through the Medi-Cal program. L.A. Care has consistently championed initiatives that expand coverage opportunities, streamline enrollment processes, and ensure the health care needs of Medi-Cal beneficiaries are being met. This support is evident in our diverse efforts, ranging from collaborating with state entities to expand program offerings, to actively promoting enrollment drives, and providing resources to assist individuals in navigating the complex eligibility process.

L.A. Care commends you for recognizing the importance of continuous eligibility. In California alone, First 5 LA estimates that over 100,000 children under five years of age experience coverage gaps each year. By ensuring children have uninterrupted access to quality healthcare, you're not just providing them with health care coverage, but also fostering a sense of security and stability that's essential for their healthy development.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Baackes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John Baackes

***About L.A. Care Health Plan***

*L.A. Care Health Plan serves more than 2.6 million members in Los Angeles County, making it the largest publicly-operated health plan in the country. L.A. Care offers four health coverage plans including Medi-Cal, Covered California, Medicare Advantage, and PASC-SEIU Homecare Workers. As a public entity, L.A. Care's mission is to provide access to quality health care for L.A. County's vulnerable and low-income communities, and to support the safety net required to achieve that purpose.*



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Accreditation of Medi-Cal and L.A. Care Covered

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