



March 21, 2023

Honorable Susan Eggman
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 282 (Eggman): Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.
As amended on March 13, 2023 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Eggman:

On behalf of the state's 58 counties, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties of California (UCC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) are pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 282. This measure would allow Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for up to two visits that take place on the same day.

This bill would allow reimbursement for a patient who schedules a medical visit and a behavioral health or dental visit on the same day at the same location, integrating health care services and ensuring that people can access the care they need. The impacts of untreated mental health and substance use disorders have become increasingly visible throughout the state, and FQHCs and RHCs often partner with counties to provide access to both health care and substance use disorder or mental health services for underserved populations and in geographically diverse areas. Additionally, some counties own and operate FQHCs and RHCs. These clinics were designed to provide primary care services and decrease health disparities and in recent years have become an important resource for the successful integration of primary health and behavioral health needs.

Under the current reimbursement system, if a patient visits their co-located medical provider and mental health provider on the same day, the FQHC or RHC will only receive a payment for one of the providers. This process in some cases leads to providers scheduling mental health appointments on subsequent days or requiring clinics to take on an increased financial burden. The burden placed on patients, who must arrange transportation, time off work, and/or caregiving for single appointments on different days can influence patient return rates and patient satisfaction.

SB 282 would ensure that people can access this care and allow California to take advantage of increased federal funds. It will improve the continuity of care to patients, and it is for these reasons that CSAC, UCC, and RCRC support this measure. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact our organizations.

Sincerely,



Jolie Onodera
Senior Legislative Advocate
CSAC
jonodera@counties.org



Kelly Brooks-Lindsey
Legislative Advocate
UCC
kbl@hbeadvocacy.com



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
RCRC
sdukett@rcrcnet.org

cc:

Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Marjorie Swartz, Office of the Senate pro Tempore
Joe Parra, Senate Republican Caucus
Anthony Archie, Senate Republican Caucus
Mary Ader, Office of the Assembly Speaker
Joe Shinstock, Assembly Republican Caucus