



May 24, 2023

SENATE FLOOR ALERT
SB 282 (Eggman): Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.
As Amended March 13, 2023 – SUPPORT
Senate Third Reading File

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) are pleased to support 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, decrease health disparities, and 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 and respectfully request your AYE vote. Should you or your staff have additional questions about our position, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jolie Onodera, CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate at jonodera@counties.org, Kelly Brooks-Lindsey, UCC Legislative Advocate at kbl@hbeadvocacy.com, and Sarah Dukett, RCRC Legislative Advocate at sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

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