



American Medical **Women's** Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

The Honorable Jim Wood
Chair of the Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB 1524 (Chiu) - Medi-Cal Access for Student Health Centers

Dear Assembly Member Wood,

The American Medical Women's Association is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1524. This bill will increase access to primary care and preventive health services for children and young adults by creating a fast-tracked enrollment process for qualified clinics, allowing student health centers (SHC) that choose to participate in the Medi-Cal and Family PACT programs to have their enrollments processed in about 30 days.

Providing Medi-Cal and Family PACT health services on school campuses, whether at a high school, community college, or 4-year institution, is extremely effective because it delivers vital and often time-sensitive health care services directly to students in need. **Half of all children and 1 in 3 of all adults in California rely on Medi-Cal services.** Despite this fact, only a small percentage of SHCs are enrolled Medi-Cal providers, thus posing barriers to students, especially in rural communities, who are forced off campus to seek care.

The benefits are multi-fold: SHCs enrolled in Medi-Cal and Family PACT can provide students with access to indispensable primary care and preventative services – especially pregnancy-related and family planning services - and take advantage of essential reimbursement opportunities.

AB 1524 puts SHCs on par with affiliate primary care clinics by requiring that their enrollment applications be approved within 30 days of submission for both Medi-Cal and Family PACT. By fast-tracking the enrollment process, more SHCs can participate in critical and cost-effective programs that are designed to provide immediate access to young people in need of timely health services.

For these reasons, American Medical Women's Association strongly supports AB 1524.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norma Jo Waxman'.

Norma Jo Waxman, MD, AMWA Advocacy Chair, CA

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Assembly Health Committee

