



June 14, 2023

The Honorable Caroline Menjivar
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
California State Assembly
1021 O St., Rm 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
California State Assembly
1021 O St., Rm 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Step 3.1: Legislature's Version of the 2023-24 State Budget. Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax for increasing Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.

Senator Menjiva, Assemblymember Arambula, and Members of the Budget Subcommittees on Health:

The Emergency Department Practice Management Association (EDPMA) is the nation's only professional physician trade association focused on the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective care in the emergency department. It is our mission to advocate for Emergency Department physician groups and their business partners to enhance quality patient care through operational excellence and financial stability.

On behalf of our California members, we applaud the legislature's decision to include a line-item for increasing Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for primary care, specialty care, hospitals, clinics, community health workers, behavioral health capacity, reproductive health care, abortion access, workforce development.

However, the absence of emergency physicians to be included in the reimbursement rate increase is very concerning. We are asking that \$235 million be appropriated to increase our reimbursement rates to 87% of Medicare reimbursement.

We have a standard to improve access and quality of emergency services for all Californians, especially our most vulnerable communities who rely on Medi-Cal. Services provided by emergency physicians to Medi-Cal patients is currently 60% under what we receive from Medicare. This severely underfunded rate negatively impacts our ability to properly treat emergency patients through longer wait times with less emergency physicians per shift.

Again, on behalf of all EDPMA members in California, we request that you support including an increase in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for emergency physicians, who are not hospital employees and are reimbursed separately from hospitals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Andrea Brault
Andrea Brault, MD, FACEP
Chair of the Board