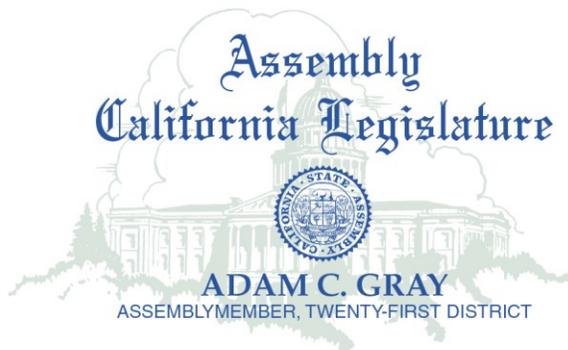


STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0021  
(916) 319-2021  
FAX (916) 319-2121

DISTRICT OFFICE  
690 W. 16TH STREET  
MERCED, CA 95340  
(209) 726-5465  
FAX (209) 726-5469

**E-MAIL**

Assemblymember.Gray@assembly.ca.gov



DISTRICT OFFICE  
1010 TENTH STREET, SUITE 5800  
MODESTO, CA 95354  
(209) 521-2111  
FAX (209) 521-2102

**COMMITTEES**

CHAIR: GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
AGRICULTURE  
REVENUE AND TAXATION

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
ACCESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

In this time of unprecedented challenges, the demands on health care are growing, yet state revenue is uncertain. This means we need to do more with less. We are calling on you to prioritize the inclusion of Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGMs) in the Medi-Cal Program to reduce immediate COVID-19 risks and generate substantial General Fund savings in the 2020-21 fiscal year and beyond. Even more, Medi-Cal coverage of GCMs will advance the Administration's shared objective of expanding minority health care access.

Last session, unanimously supported legislation (AB 848) to extend Medi-Cal coverage of CGMs for diabetes patients was vetoed, with direction to seek enactment through the budget process. Much has changed since then;

- *Diabetes-related COVID-19 complications currently account for 30 percent of hospitalizations and are the second leading cause of coronavirus deaths.*
- *In 2021, another 250,000 Californians in total will be diagnosed with diabetes.*
- *Medi-Cal spending for adult diabetes patients is approximately \$3.6 billion annually. Costs in 2021 are anticipated to drastically increase due to coronavirus infections*

How do we balance next year's growing needs with constrained resources? CGMs pay for themselves and more. When compared to fingerstick glucose tests, CGMs are more effective at managing diabetes complications and proven to reduce pre-pandemic hospitalization rates by as much as 76 percent.

It is estimated that a General Fund investment of only \$300,000 would yield net **savings of \$54 million - \$66 million** in the first year based on fewer hospitalizations and reduced intervention.

These savings estimates are highly conservative and expected to grow because CGM prices continue to decline. That's why Medicaid programs in over 40 states, Medicare, and most commercial plans have approved coverage of CGMs.

Beyond the fiscal benefits, CGMs afford minorities (who comprise a large percentage of Medi-Cal enrollees) equal access to the current medical standard for diabetes care. COVID-19 exposes the real-life impacts of health care disparities. California's minorities should not be dying at disproportionately higher percentages than the general population because they are relegated to lower standards of health care.

The Legislature stands ready to work with you throughout this legislative session on a Medi-Cal coverage solution for CGMs. California's strength lies in our people and our innovation. In times of crisis, we've protected our people and looked to innovation for answers. Thanks to medical technology first pioneered in California, we can do both. We can protect our most vulnerable. We can resourcefully improve health outcomes. And, despite the mounting challenges, we can advance a California for All.

Sincerely,



---

Assemblymember Adam Gray  
21st Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
4th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula  
31st Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Marc Berman  
24th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Autumn Burke  
62nd Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo  
51st Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Jim Cooper  
9th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember David Chiu  
17th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Mike Gipson  
64th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Kevin Mullin  
22nd Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Jim Patterson  
23rd Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Jim Nielsen  
4th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Jim Wood  
2nd Assembly District



---

Senator Anna Caballero  
12th Senate District



---

Senator Anthony Portantino  
25th Senate District



---

Assemblymember Brian Maienschein  
77th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian  
46th Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez  
52nd Assembly District



---

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio  
48th Assembly District



---

Senator Bob Archuleta  
32nd Senate District



---

Senator Melissa Melendez  
28th Senate District



---

Senator Susan Rubio  
22nd Senate District



---

Senator Nancy Skinner  
9th Senate District

cc: Will Lightbourne, Director, California Health and Human Services Agency  
Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency