

RE: May Revision — Elimination of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital Supplemental Funding: OPPOSE

Dear (Insert state elected official name here):

I am writing to express my vigorous opposition to the proposal included in Governor Newsom's May Revision that would eliminate supplemental funding for Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH.) This funding is essential to our community hospital that serves over 1 million vulnerable people in South Los Angeles.

The impact of the cuts proposed to our hospital—\$30 million the first year with similar losses each year—would be permanent, devastating and catastrophic for the health and well-being of the South Los Angeles community.

I am aware that California legislators face difficult decisions. Taking services away from a largely Medi-Cal population, with a poverty level more than double the state's and health outcomes worse than any community in California, will only increase the state's burden. Lack of access to care will result in further disability, loss of life and economic instability for South LA families, many of whom are increasingly at-risk given the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession.

Since opening in 2015, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital has shown that it works. Quality care is represented by safety and patient satisfaction ratings among the top in the nation. MLKCH is a source of pride for all of us—and a key weapon in fighting COVID-19.

Supplemental funding provided by AB 2599 is a cornerstone of the public partnership for health in our community— an effective remedy for a very clear need.

MLKCH is doing its job for my community. The state of California must continue to do its job as its public partner. On behalf of our South LA community, more than 2,000 employees (more than half of them local,) I urge you to reject the Governor's proposal.

Sincerely,

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