



June 17, 2026

Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: SB 1284 (SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS) MEDICAL BENEFITS: EMPLOYER REPORTS
OPPOSE - AS AMENDED MAY 14, 2026**

Dear Senator Smallwood-Cuevas:

The California Chamber of Commerce and the undersigned organizations respectfully **OPPOSE SB 1284**. **SB 1284** would require the State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to report employer-specific data on employees enrolled in Medi-Cal to and then make that information available, identified by employer name. While **SB 1284** does not expressly state that the names of employers will be disclosed publicly, it can be inferred that when DHCS submits the report to the legislature no later than July 1, 2027, there will likely be a hearing on the findings. In that hearing, that would be open to the public, there is a high likelihood that individual employers' names are divulged or at minimum posted on the agency website. By placing

individual employer names alongside the number of their workers receiving state-funded health care, **SB 1284** would effectively create a government operated public shaming registry. One built on incomplete, decontextualized data that says nothing definitive about how an employer treats its workforce.

SB 1284 Uses a Government Database to Publicly Stigmatize Employers Without Due Process

The central mechanism of **SB 1284** is to collect employer-level Medi-Cal enrollment data and as described above, the public, including journalists, advocacy groups, union organizers, plaintiff's attorneys, and competitors, could know how many of a given employer's workers are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

The bill's purpose is to ensure that "*public programs function as a true safety net rather than a subsidy for employers.*" This implicit premise in **SB 1284's** purpose is deeply concerning, and that premise is that any employer with workers on Medi-Cal is offloading its obligations onto taxpayers. This premise, however, is demonstrably false, and using a state database to broadcast it will cause serious, undeserved harm to countless California employers, including small businesses.

Medi-Cal enrollment is driven by a complex set of factors that have nothing to do with employer malfeasance, including but not limited to:

- Workers who voluntarily choose Medi-Cal over employer sponsored coverage because it is more affordable or comprehensive for their family situation;
- Part-time or seasonal workers who are not eligible for employer-sponsored benefits under existing law;
- Workers whose income qualifies them for Medi-Cal regardless of whether their employer offers coverage;
- New hires still in waiting periods before employer benefits take effect;
- Workers in households with other enrolled family members who are on Medi-Cal for independent reasons;

SB 1284 does nothing to account for any of these factors. Sharing an employer's name alongside a Medi-Cal enrollment count, without context or explanation, implies that the employer is wholly responsible, when the reality is far more complicated and nuanced.

SB 1284 treats employers as the **sole architects** of a problem built by market forces, state and federal policy, and individual worker decisions that no employer has the power nor the legal authority to override.

For these, and other reasons, we **OPPOSE AB 1284 (Smallwood-Cuevas)**.

Sincerely,



Andrea Lynch
Policy Advocate, Labor, Employment and Workers' Compensation

cc: Sana Jaffery, Office of Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas
Luke Reidenbach, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Megan Lane, Chief Consultant, Assembly Labor and Employment Committee
Tess Scherkenback, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

ANL:kas

Brea Chamber of Commerce, Lacy Schoen, CEO and President
California Attractions and Parks Association, Sabrina Lockhart, Executive Director
California Farm Bureau (CAFB), Bryan Little, Senior Director Policy Advocacy
California Grocers Association, Rachael O'Brien, Vice President, Government Relations

California League of Food Producers, Katie Little, Government Affairs Director
California Trucking Association, Nick Chiappe , Vice President of Government Affairs
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, Bret Schanzenbach, President & CEO
Colusa Chamber of Commerce, Jack Cunningham, President & CEO
Corona Chamber of Commerce, Tim Gramling, President & CEO
Family Business Association of California, Robert Rivinius, President
Gateway Chambers Alliance, Caren Spilsbury
Greater High Desert Chamber, Mark Creffield, President & CEO
Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce, Quirina Ramirez, Vice President of Advocacy & Programs
Housing Contractors of California, Bruce Wick
Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, Sher Cowie, Interim CEO
Industry Business Council (IBC), Joanne McClaskey, Executive Director
La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce and Community Association, Pat Anderson, President & CEO
Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce, Teresa Schickling, President
Lodi Chamber of Commerce, JP Doucette, President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Carlos Singer, SVP & Chief Policy Officer
Menifee Valley Chamber of Commerce, Katie Luna, President & CEO
Mission Viejo Chamber of Commerce, David Benson, President
Modesto Chamber of Commerce, Trish Christensen, President & CEO
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce, Patrick Ellis, President & CEO
Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce, Steve Rosansky, President & CEO
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Caren Spilsbury
Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, Scott Ashton, CEO
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce, Alisa Williams, CEO
Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce, Diann H. Rogers, President & CEO
Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce, David L. Elliott
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, Ivan Volschenk, President/CEO
Santa Maria Valley Chamber, Suzanne Singh, VP Economic Development & Government Affairs
SHRM California, Eric De Wames
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, Anthony Angelini, MPA
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, Donna Duperron, President & CEO
Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce, Anthony Johnson, Government Affairs Representative