



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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To the Members of the California State Assembly:

Assembly Bill 50 would provide “full-scope” health care coverage for pregnant women between 60 and 100 percent of federal poverty level, during the first and second trimesters of pregnancy, if they otherwise meet Medi-Cal eligibility requirements. Currently, pregnant women in this and higher income groups (up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level), receive all medically necessary services related to their pregnancy.

While I support this policy, I can’t support this bill.

Through the 2013 Budget Act and AB 1 and SB 1 in this year’s special session, we enacted a historic expansion of our state’s Medi-Cal program. Many trade-offs were made in determining our ultimate policy direction. Expanding coverage options for pregnant women, however, remained unresolved.

Rather than enacting a piecemeal change, further discussion should take place on the entire category of pregnancy-only coverage, not just women between 60-100 percent of the federal poverty level.

The development of the 2014-15 budget is underway. I am directing the Department of Health Care Services to work on a more complete proposal for January.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.