

1 [Supporting Assembly Bill 1263 - Medi-Cal: CommuniCal - Reliable Access to Language  
2 Interpretation for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1263, which**  
4 **creates “Medi-Cal: CommuniCal,” a program that provides reliable access to language**  
5 **interpretation for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are limited English proficient.**

6  
7 WHEREAS, California has been long recognized as one of the most racially and  
8 linguistically diverse states with residents who speak over 200 languages; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately one in five Californians is limited English proficient (LEP)  
10 and identifies as speaking English less than very well; and

11 WHEREAS, Language access and the right to interpretation services is required under  
12 Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act of  
13 1973 (Chapter 17.5 (commencing with Section 7290) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the  
14 Government Code), the Knox-Keene Healthcare Services Plan Act of 1975 (Chapter 2.2  
15 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code), Section 11135  
16 of the Government Code, Section 1259 of the Health and Safety Code, and California Civil  
17 Rights law; and

18 WHEREAS, The demand for medical interpretation services by Medi-Cal beneficiaries  
19 is significant, with 45.2 percent of Medi-Cal beneficiaries speaking a language other than  
20 English; and

21 WHEREAS, The state will experience an even greater demand for language services  
22 as health care reform measures are implemented over the next few years and 35 percent of  
23 Californians expected to become newly eligible for Medi-Cal as a result of the federal Patient  
24 Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) will speak English less than well;  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, In California, language assistance services are currently provided in an  
2 uncoordinated manner that lacks transparency and accountability, and a majority of services  
3 are currently provided ad hoc by family members and friends or untrained staff; and

4           WHEREAS, California has the opportunity to meet the growing demand early on by  
5 accessing millions of dollars in federal matching funds to provide medical interpretation  
6 services to LEP Medi-Cal beneficiaries; and

7           WHEREAS, Professional medical interpretation services help reduce avoidable  
8 medical errors and provider malpractice liability for physicians and other healthcare providers;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, a coordinated program to offer medical interpreter services will improve  
11 health care outcomes for LEP Californians and help control healthcare costs that result from a  
12 lack of access to preventative and primary care; now, therefore, be it

13          RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports and encourages the passage of  
14 Assembly Bill 1263; and, be it

15          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs  
16 the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jerry Brown, Senate  
17 President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, and Speaker of the Assembly John A. Pérez.

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