

(Direct the letter to Senator Noreen Evans. Either fax to 916.323.6958 or email to brandy.deornellas@sen.ca.gov)

Date

Senator Noreen Evans
State Capitol
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Senator Evans:

RE: Senate Bill 155 – Ensuring Maternity Insurance Coverage

On behalf of (YOUR ORGANIZATION), we would like to thank you for your continued leadership on health and women's issues, most recently evidenced by your authorship of Senate Bill 155. SB 155 is a long time coming, and will help what would otherwise happen between now and 2014 when Federal health law will require maternity coverage in insurance policies sold through the California Health Benefits Exchange.

We can't wait for 2014. In 2004, 82% of policies contained this coverage. Just five years later, only 19% of policies contained coverage. Without SB 155, what will happen between now and 2014?

Women buying their own health insurance in the Individual health insurance market are having a more and more difficult time finding comprehensive health insurance coverage which covers some of the most basic of medical care – prenatal and delivery. Even if they can find it the insurance pool has so drastically reduced that policies are often prohibitively expensive.

While many women without this coverage find when they become pregnant they qualify for state programs, critical time can be lost from the time a woman realizes she's pregnant, that she doesn't have insurance coverage for prenatal services, finds a state program, enrolls, finds a physician and makes an appointment. That's not a good way to provide prenatal services. Additionally, why should state programs pick up the cost for services which should be covered by insurance?

Women should not be treated in a piece-meal fashion. It's not good medicine; it's not good for state costs. It is discriminatory to carve out essential services for women.

We support your efforts and support SB 155.

Thank you,

NAME
ORGANIZATION
CONTACT INFORMATION