

[Date]

[Recipient's Name]

[Recipient's Title]

[Office Address]

[City, State, ZIP Code]

Subject: Please Protect My Access to Acupuncture Under Medi-Cal

Dear [Representative Name],

I am a Medi-Cal patient in your district, and I am writing to urge you to oppose the elimination of acupuncture as a Medi-Cal benefit in Governor Newsom's proposed 2026-2027 State Budget.

I rely on acupuncture to manage my [chronic pain/condition]. Without this coverage, I would lose access to a treatment that has made a real difference in my quality of life, and I would have nowhere else to turn. I am not alone. Hundreds of thousands of Medi-Cal patients across California depend on this benefit.

Facing a \$12 billion state deficit, the Governor's May Revision proposes eliminating acupuncture from Medi-Cal, estimating savings of \$5.4 million in 2025-26 and \$13.1 million annually thereafter. But these short-term savings come at a steep long-term cost to patients like me.

This is not the first time our community has had to fight for this benefit. The same cut was proposed last year, and it was only through significant public mobilization that acupuncture was restored. We should not have to fight for essential care year after year.

The California State Senate has made its position clear. SB 944, the Acupuncture Access Act, authored by Senator Scott Wiener, passed the Senate 35-0- a unanimous, bipartisan vote recognizing that acupuncture is not a luxury. It is essential healthcare.

I ask that you stand with your constituents and oppose this cut for the following reasons:

- **Opioid Crisis:** Since 2016, Medi-Cal acupuncture has offered a proven, non-opioid alternative for chronic severe pain. Eliminating it risks pushing vulnerable patients back toward prescription medications and the harms that come with them.
- **Economic Value:** Acupuncture represents a small fraction of the Medi-Cal budget, yet delivers significant benefits. Cutting it will likely drive patients toward more expensive emergency and specialty care, increasing overall costs to the state.

- Essential Health Benefit: Since 2012, acupuncture has been recognized as an essential health benefit under the Affordable Care Act. Removing it from Medi-Cal undermines that standard for California's most vulnerable residents.

Eliminating this benefit would reduce quality of care for millions of Californians and lead to higher long-term costs for the state. I urge you to advocate strongly for retaining acupuncture coverage under Medi-Cal.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community. I hope you will stand with patients like me.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

Sincerely,

[Your Name]