**Letter re: Abortion Care**

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention that [NAME OF HEALTH PLAN] is requiring Medi-Cal managed care enrollees to obtain prior authorization for abortion care services. This request is not consistent with California law. Health plans in California, including Medi-Cal managed care plans, are not permitted to require prior authorizations for the vast majority of abortion care services. Medi-Cal managed care enrollees are also permitted to seek abortion services from any Medi-Cal provider of their choice, including out-of-network providers.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of public documents on California laws and regulations related to access to abortion care services:

* [Sept. 30, 2015 letter from the Department of Health Care Services to All Plans](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2015/APL15-020.pdf) (APL 15-020) reiterating the obligations of Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans regarding timely access to abortions.
* National Health Law Program [fact sheet on California abortion coverage in Medi-Cal and private insurance](https://accesswhj.org/sites/default/files/docs/NHeLP-CAAbortionCoverageFactSheet-Web.pdf), which provides information on the scope of California abortion coverage, cost-sharing, and procedural requirements with respect to both Medi-Cal and private plans.
* Medi-Cal managed care enrollees also have freedom of choice of family planning providers, a right which is protected under both state and federal law. Please see this [fact sheet on California's Protection of Choice for Family Planning Act](http://www.healthlaw.org/issues/reproductive-health/fact-sheet-californias-medi-cal-protection-of-choice-for-family-planning-act#.W6AgxehKjIU), which went into effect at the beginning of 2018.

Please make the necessary changes to [NAME OF HEALTH PLAN/IPA]’s policies and procedures as soon as possible to ensure that all Medi-Cal managed care enrollees have proper access to abortion care. Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

If you have any questions about this information, feel free to contact me at [CONTACT INFORMATION].

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]