

Mendocino County urges state to eliminate Medi-Cal rate cuts

By Ukiah Daily Journal staff

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Mendocino County announced Tuesday it was joining the rural county representatives of California, the California Hospital Association, and a broad-based coalition of Medi-Cal providers known as We Care for California, in urging the state Legislature and administration to reverse Assembly Bill 97 of 2011, or Medi-Cal rate cuts, and increase Medi-Cal payments to healthcare providers and health plans during the upcoming state budget negotiations.

AB 97 cut rates to a variety of Medi-Cal providers by 10 percent off of the 2008 reimbursement rates, according to a news release from the Mendocino County Executive Office. Further, these payment reductions may threaten the accessibility of services to individuals who reside in rural and already medically underserved areas.

“Many Mendocino County medical providers have been impacted by these rate cuts resulting in loss of services and limited access to services,” said Mendocino County Supervisor and chairwoman Carre Brown. “Elimination of the Medi-Cal rate cuts is critical to Mendocino County, and we urge the Legislature and Administration to take these impacts into consideration as they enter budget negotiations.”

Medi-Cal reimbursement rates directly impact the ability of providers and facilities to accept Medi-Cal patients, and therefore affects access to healthcare, the news release stated.

The Legislature must pass a state budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year by June 15 and send it to Gov. Jerry Brown for action. The 2015-16 state budget will take effect July 1.