



A driving force for health equity

Submitted via electronic email

March 19, 2024

Honorable Akilah Weber
Assemblymember
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0079

Re: A.B. 2250, Social Determinants of Health: Screening and Outreach

Dear Assemblymember Weber,

On behalf of OCHIN, I appreciate the opportunity to offer support for AB 2250, which would further health care quality and equity by ensuring coverage of social determinants of health screening. In California, OCHIN network members serve 2.1 million patients and 648,9000 Medi-Cal patients. We strongly support each provision of this bill which are critical for providers underserved and rural communities. To implement screening, referral, and resolution of social drivers of health at scale, resources are needed, particularly for providers in underserved communities that do not have margins needed to offer unfunded services. We applaud requiring state health plans and health insurers to not only cover screening for such services, but also requiring such programs and plans to provide clinicians with adequate access to peer support specialists, lay health workers, social workers, or community health workers.

For over two decades, OCHIN has advanced equitable health care solutions by leveraging the strength of our network's unique data set and the practical experience of our members to drive technology innovation at scale for patients and providers in underserved communities. OCHIN network members have over 2 million digitally documented screenings of social drivers of health across the national network. Scaling these screenings to reach all patients requires the requirements contained in A.B. 2250. We support the use of screening for social determinants of health for the most underserved populations and the establishment of equitable payment delivery models that provide reimbursements for our providers to efficiently serve our most vulnerable and complex patients. This is a critical step towards bridging the gaps in health care for communities that lack access to integrated comprehensive care and for our providers that require sufficient resources to successfully achieve a whole-person centered care approach.

We applaud your efforts and support this bill which would further health care quality, access, and sustainability. Please contact me, stolli@ochin.org, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Stolli".

Jennifer Stoll
Chief External Affairs Officer