



# BOB ARCHULETA

SENATOR, 32<sup>ND</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

## SB 289 – Medi-Cal Waiting List Placement for Service Members

### SUMMARY

Senate Bill 289 would allow active duty service members to maintain their place on the Medi-Cal 1915 (c) waiver program waiting list if they maintain residency in California. In addition, the bill would allow dependents of newly assigned service members to California, to be determined eligible for Medi-Cal 1915 (c) waiver(s) based on prior eligibility or enrollment in another state.

### BACKGROUND/EXISTING LAW

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive healthcare services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid program provisions. Existing federal law provides for various In-Home Operations (IHO) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs as part of a waiver or a state plan amendment under the Medicaid program, to promote coverage and services that enable an individual who would otherwise be institutionalized to live at home or in the community.

### PROBLEM

Active duty service members can receive transfer orders at anytime, and often times these orders move them and their family out of state. When this move happens, under current law the family loses their IHO or HCBS benefits and/or their position on the wait list. This is a problem for families who plan to return to California after their service is fulfilled out of state. Under current law, a family would have to reapply for IHO or HCBS benefits upon returning to the state and start all over again on the wait list. In turn, delaying their access to these much-needed services that keep vulnerable families together at home.

### SOLUTION

SB 289 would address this problem by allowing active duty service members to maintain their eligibility status or their place on a Medi-Cal 1915

(c) waiver waiting list upon receiving orders to transfer out of state. The only requirement is that they maintain residency in California. Upon their return to California, these individuals would return to the status they had before their departure.

SB 289 would also allow a dependent child or spouse of an active duty service member who receives orders to California from another state, to apply for the Medical 1915 (c) waiver program.

Currently, 34 states have passed similar legislation and two additional states have current legislation pending. SB 289 would ensure that this benefit remains a viable option for military families with special needs to settle and live after military life.

### SUPPORT

- DoD State Liaison Office
- CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
- California School Employees Association

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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