**Sample Support Letter – AB 2579 (Burke)**

**Put on Your Letterhead**

**With** **a copy to:** **Tish.Rylander@asm.ca.gov****,** **ktesta@childrenspartnership.org**

[Committee at which bill will be heard]
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2579 (Burke) – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Wood,

**[Name of Your Organization]** supports AB 2579 (Burke), which would implement an express lane eligibility pathway from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to Medi-Cal as a smart strategy for enrolling a large portion of the remaining eligible uninsured children.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and California’s commitment to extend Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented children through Health4All Kids, 97% of California’s children are insured. As California aims for universal coverage for Californians, the state should ensure that all those eligible for Medi-Cal coverage are enrolled. About half of the remaining 202,000 uninsured children in California are eligible for Medi-Cal but not enrolled. Smart enrollment strategies include working with public programs where a relative large number of eligible but unenrolled children are and streamlining their Medi-Cal enrollment based on similar eligibility information already collected.

AB 2579 would implement an express lane eligibility (ELE) pathway from WIC to Medi-Cal. WIC is a federally funded health and nutrition program for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants and children under age 5 to improve birth and health outcomes. AB 2579 would 1) create presumptive eligibility for WIC pregnant women and 2) codify a WIC automated enrollment gateway for children.

Based on recent CalWIC enrollment data, over 90,000 WIC children are not enrolled in Medi-Cal despite being eligible. While some of these children may have other coverage, Express Lane Eligibility for all the WIC children would offer expedited enrollment to those without coverage. In addition, up to 13,000 pregnant WIC women could gain Medi-Cal presumptive eligibility.

As California moves toward universal coverage, WIC ELE is a key strategy to maximize coverage for children and deliver on the promise of Health4All Kids. For these reasons, we support AB 2579 and respectfully request your “AYE” vote.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

CC: Assemblymember Autumn Burke, author
Members of the Committee
The Children’s Partnership (Sponsor)
Children’s Defense Fund California (Co-Sponsor)
Children Now (Co-Sponsor)
California Coverage & Health Initiatives (Co-Sponsor)
United Ways of California (Co-Sponsor)