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To: Interested Parties

Subject: Large Majority of Californians Say it is Unacceptable that Cancer Patients on Medi-Cal Receive Restricted and Ineffective Care; Most Believe Medi-Cal Patients Should be Able to Access Better Care Outside the Medi-Cal System

Date: December 10, 2021

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a large majority of Californians, (70%) believe it is unacceptable that cancer patients on Medi-Cal often receive restricted and, in many cases, ineffective care. An even more significant majority (79%) support allowing Medi-Cal patients with rare or complex cancers to receive care at a specialized cancer hospital if one is not included in the Medi-Cal managed-care system itself. This would provide access to expertise not available through the in-network physicians within their medical group, but could be available at specialty hospitals that have contracted with the overall Medi-Cal program. Support is strong among both Democrats and Republicans.

This makes sense, since 81% of the respondents say if they were diagnosed with cancer, they would rather receive treatment at a hospital specializing in cancer care, rather than one that cares for patients with other types of diseases and conditions. 74% believe cancer care is different from the treatment of other common diseases, such as diabetes or heart disease. 64% say they or a family member has been diagnosed with cancer.

Other key findings in the survey include:

- 64% believe that the Cancer Patients Bill of Rights, recently passed unanimously by the California Legislature, is important for the quality of cancer care.
- When told the Bill of Rights only lays out desirable principles that should be afforded to every cancer patient, and does not have the force of law, 53% believe the Legislature should pass laws to implement the Bill of Rights.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 1,006 California voters from December 6-7, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 2.9%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

