

There must be a better way.



*“It works better for everyone
– and even costs less – to do
the right thing in children’s
asthma, rather than do
the wrong thing over and
over and over again.”*

GUILLERMO MENDOZA, MD

Ten percent of California’s children have asthma,

with low-income communities reporting double this rate. Many of these children cycle endlessly in and out of the emergency room and the hospital. Yet because of recent medical breakthroughs, it is possible to eliminate nearly all asthma attacks and four out of five hospital bed days with preventive medical care and good family health education.

Unfortunately, our health financing system is out of date. Medi-Cal pays huge amounts of money on rescue care for children, but does not fund the programs to keep them healthy in the first place. The sickest 25% of children with asthma now cost Medi-Cal 28 times as much as other asthmatic kids.

Unless we act now, some 30 children’s asthma clinics across the state will shut down by this summer. If these programs close, we will go back to spending more Medi-Cal dollars to end up with sicker kids. Some children will die. Don’t our children deserve better?

Urge your California legislator to modernize Medi-Cal to invest in preventive treatment and save money on rescue care. Tell them to lead a common sense approach, supporting the California Children’s Asthma Management Program (AMP).

All our children have a right to breathe!

Children’s Asthma Management Program (AMP)

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