

County of Monterey



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July 27, 2023

John Pickett
Regional Vice President, Health Care Networks
Anthem Blue Cross
2 Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA 94111

Via email: john.pickett@anthem.com

Subject: Resolution in Contract Negotiations with Salinas Valley Health

Dear Mr. Pickett:

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I want to express our Board's interest in the ongoing contract negotiations between Anthem Blue Cross and Salinas Valley Health. We respectfully request that Anthem take the required action to facilitate a swift and positive resolution in this critical matter, as Salinas Valley Health is currently set to be out-of-network with Anthem on August 1, 2023. This decision comes after Salinas Valley Health has provided multiple proposals and offers of extension that have been denied by Anthem.

The County of Monterey is the largest employer in the region, and we do not want to see our Anthem insured employees, nor our constituents, experience disruption in care or the terrifying prospect a contract termination would thrust upon the families in our region. Changing insurers is an option we hope will not become necessary.

Covered California just announced that Anthem is raising customer premiums by 11%. Where are the increased premium dollars going if not to the health systems providing care to those paying the premiums?

Salinas Valley Health has been an integral part of our community for the past 70 years, providing nationally recognized quality care to the residents of Monterey County. Their providers are dedicated to expanding access to care, and have demonstrated an impressive history of collaboration, offering a wide range of health and wellness programs to your members. Further, Salinas Valley Health was a critical element of our region's healthcare delivery system during the COVID-19 crisis, collaborating with other healthcare systems and the County of Monterey Health Department to save lives and mitigate the repercussions of the pandemic within our community.

We want to emphasize that there is widespread support within Monterey County and beyond for Salinas Valley Health. The community recognizes the invaluable contributions made by this public district healthcare organization and acknowledges its unwavering dedication to the welfare of our residents. We believe Anthem, as a responsible healthcare insurer, should do its part to ensure that negotiations with Salinas Valley Health reach a swift resolution.

We look forward to a contract agreement and sincerely hope Anthem will demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of our community by reaching a mutually beneficial and fair contract with Salinas Valley Health prior to the August 1st deadline.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will give it the utmost priority it deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Luis A. Alejo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LUIS A. ALEJO

Chair, Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Pete Delgado, President/CEO, Salinas Valley Health
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator Alex Padilla
Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District
Congressman Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District
Senator Anna Caballero, 14th Senate District
Senator John Laird, 17th Senate District
Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
Assembly Member Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District