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November 14, 2016

TO: All DHS Employees

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D. *Mitchell Katz*
Director

Re: Election Note

Since last week's election, many people have emailed or talked to me about how worried they are about the fate of the Affordable Care Act under a new President and Congress. Indeed, we have all witnessed the positive effects of our patients gaining insurance. I have personally seen many patients at the urgent care at Roybal Comprehensive Health Center who came in after they qualified for Medi-Cal to restart medications that they had previously stopped because they were unable to pay for them. Moreover, as a department we have put in tremendous effort to succeed under health reform and so it is disheartening to think of it being unraveled now. Finally, the unknown is always scary.

I want to assure you that DHS is sufficiently strong that we will persevere and succeed whatever the future holds. We know that it is not only good medicine to get people insured but that ultimately it is less expensive to provide preventive and primary care than to care for the emergency hospitalizations that occur when people lack basic health care. Our job is to be staunch advocates for our patients, and to uphold the values of caring for others. This includes working closely with community, labor, the university, state and federal partners to continue building on the services we have been providing our patients since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

It is natural in a democracy for people to disagree. Among DHS staff and patients, there were supporters of both of the major presidential candidates, and both of the major political parties. Let's not fight among ourselves or isolate people who have different views. Let's focus on demonstrating to others the value of providing high quality medical care to all who need it.

Thank you for always making me proud of directing this great Department.

c: Sachi A. Hamai, CEO
Health Deputies

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To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

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