COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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LINDSEY P. HORVATH

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

April 7, 2026

Dr. Erica Pan
Director
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Pan,

We are writing to respectfully urge you to support greater coordination and investment in the enforcement of home health and hospice providers, as well as strengthened regulatory oversight by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in their respective roles overseeing deemed hospice and home health entities. Our Board of Supervisors adopted a motion on April 7, 2026, to support efforts to combat home health and hospice fraud in Los Angeles County (County), in response to the increasing instances of fraudulent practices among providers in recent years. These practices have jeopardized the most vulnerable members of our community and undermined public confidence in services that are an essential part of the healthcare system.

There are 3,170 home health and 1,623 hospice agencies located in the County. All home health and hospice providers must be licensed to provide care by the State of California (State). The County Department of Public Health's Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) is contracted by CDPH to conduct licensing and certification work in the County on behalf of the State. This includes conducting inspections on behalf of both the State and CMS related to home health and hospice operations, including investigation of fraud allegations.

Under federal law, home health and hospice agencies can elect to be "deemed" by a private accrediting organization to meet the CMS-approved accrediting organizational standards. Deemed status allows providers to be surveyed by private accrediting entities, rather than CMS, to confirm their compliance with federal statutory requirements. Over 60 percent of the home health and hospice agencies operating in the County have federal deemed status and fall outside the direct oversight of HFID for both complaint investigations and ongoing certification of compliance with CMS requirements. HFID does not perform these recertification reviews.

While HFID retains control over the investigation of complaints against non-deemed agencies, the investigation of complaints about a deemed provider must be referred to CMS to obtain authorization to conduct a complaint validation survey. If fraud is confirmed in a CMS-approved survey, the federal government then takes over any further investigation and enforcement efforts, and no further information is provided to HFID about the outcome of the case.

The County has been an active participant in the State's Hospice Fraud Task Force, which includes CDPH, the State Department of Justice and other State departments that review pending investigations and findings of fraud among home health and hospice agencies. However, greater coordination is needed to address the concerns of fraud in the home health and hospice industry.

It is essential to ensure the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable members of the community by enhancing federal and State enforcement of home health and hospice providers. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to support greater coordination and investment in this area, as well as strengthened regulatory oversight by CMS and CDPH in their respective roles overseeing deemed hospice and home health entities.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor, Second District

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Supervisor, Third District

JANICE HAHN
Supervisor, Fourth District

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Supervisor, Fifth District

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April 7, 2026

Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Dr. Oz,

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