

The Myers Family:

“When the safety net is broken, what happens the children that are supposed to be saved by the system?”

Erica could not believe it. She was in shock and couldn't tell if she was ashamed or angry or both.

“Sorry, we don't see patients with Medi-Cal and frankly I don't know where you can go besides the emergency room,” the receptionist at the doctor's office told Erica over the phone.

Erica had called nearly a dozen pediatrician offices in Fresno and Clovis and no one was willing to see her one year-old daughter Brinley. As soon as the doctors heard the family was on medi-cal, the conversations ended shortly thereafter. Brinley was running a fever and visibly in pain. Out of desperation, Erica and her husband, Everett rushed their baby to the emergency room. It turned out Brinley had a viral congestion that kept her coughing during the five hours they were in the waiting room at the emergency room.

After serving more than 12 years in the Navy, Everett returned home to Clovis. His decision to raise his three kids closer to his family and hope of providing a better future for them was now costing him more than he ever imagined. He started a small business and healthcare coverage was too expensive. Everett was quickly discovering the safety net program intended to keep his children healthy and “safe” was actually very broken.

This experience was an awakening for the Myers family, but sadly, for hundreds of thousands of children and families, the challenge of getting services with Medi-Cal coverage is not new.



Policy Issue: Medi-Cal insurance reimbursement rates are low. A majority of doctors are now refusing to see existing or accept new patients who have Medi-Cal. In situations where no other insurance is available, Medi-Cal was designed to be the insurance of last resort. However, just because someone has a Medi-Cal card, it doesn't necessarily mean that card will translate into services. This is one of the critical issues impacting the health and safety of our children. Let's do something about it.



The Children's Movement

“Its not about being right or left, its about our kids.”