



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Health Plan Association Names New Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs**

**Sacramento, CA** –The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) has named John M. Puente as the Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs for the statewide trade association. In this role, Mr. Puente will serve as primary liaison with health plans and the Department of Managed Health Care (subject to legal restrictions on contact with the DMHC for one year), Department of Health Services and MRMIB and will be responsible for driving CAHP's advocacy for the industry on regulatory and policy issues in these departments.

"John's hands on experience with plans, providers and regulatory issues will serve the Association well. He is well-respected in the industry and will be a great addition to our legal and regulatory affairs efforts," said CAHP CEO Christopher Ohman. "His comprehensive understanding of California's health plan legal and regulatory issues is an asset to CAHP and our industry."

Mr. Puente comes to CAHP with more than 14 years experience in the legal and regulatory arena. Most recently, he has served as Deputy Director for Plan and Provider Relations for DMHC with responsibility for mediating plan and provider issues. Formerly Chief of the DMHC's Licensing Division, he was integral in implementing process improvements, served a key role in legislative care policy development. John has also served as Associate General Counsel for Molina Healthcare, General Counsel for the Medical Board of California and Counsel for the Department of Social Services. Additionally, John has worked in the Governor's office and served as an Executive Fellow for the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Puente was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary's College and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate degree from Gonzaga University School of Law.

"My work at the DMHC has given me tremendous insight into health plan and provider issues and dynamics. I hope to bring this experience, along with my knowledge of the regulatory process, to the health plan industry as we all work collaboratively to improve the health care system and managed care in California." said Puente. He noted, "I'm also pleased to be working again on public program issues, where health plans serve those most in need."

Mr. Puente will begin his work at CAHP on October 2, 2006.

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The California Association of Health Plans is a statewide trade association representing 38 Knox-Keene licensed health plans that provide health coverage to more than 21million Californians. The Association's mission is to improve the health of California's communities by promoting the growth of health plans dedicated to providing high quality, affordable, accessible health care to their members.