



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Plan Association Names New Chief Lobbyist

Sacramento, CA –The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) has named Charles Bacchi as the new vice president of legislative affairs for the statewide trade association. In this new role, Mr. Bacchi will be responsible for legislative activities for the trade association which represents 35 health plans operating in California.

“In Charles we’ve found a person who is well-respected in Sacramento and is seen as a proven leader with skill in building cooperation and teamwork around legislative and policy issues,” said CAHP CEO Christopher Ohman. “Charles will serve as a great advocate for the health care industry and we welcome him to lead our legislative affairs team.”

Mr. Bacchi comes to CAHP as a veteran lobbyist with more than 11 years experience in the Sacramento legislative arena. Most recently, Mr. Bacchi served as legislative advocate for the California Chamber of Commerce, the largest broad-based business advocacy group with more than 13,000 members. He was instrumental in developing the 2004 workers compensation reform package, and also tracked issues such as education, insurance, tourism and land use during his time at the Chamber. Prior to the Chamber, Mr. Bacchi served as legislative director for Assemblyman Bill Leonard for seven years. He was a key participant in negotiating the 1998 school bond and worked on a bipartisan basis on many policy issues, including 2002 efforts to place another school bond on the ballot.

Mr. Bacchi graduated from the University of Santa Barbara and went on to do graduate work in government at California State University of Sacramento.

“I am excited about this new opportunity with CAHP. I look forward to building upon the successes that CAHP has achieved and am eager to work with our member health plans and other health care advocates to improve health care for Californians,” said Bacchi.

Mr. Bacchi will begin his work at CAHP on November 28, 2005.

Editors Note: Photo available

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The California Association of Health Plans is a statewide trade association representing 35 Knox-Keene licensed health plans that provide health coverage to more than 22 million 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.