



CAHP's On Target series highlights noteworthy information we believe is valuable to the ongoing California health care dialogue.

In the latest On Target, the [Los Angeles Times](#) editorial board takes an in-depth look at California State Assemblymember David Chiu's (D- San Francisco) AB 463, a bill aimed at increasing transparency around the pricing of high-cost drugs. As drug prices reach all-time highs, Chiu's bill would help state policymakers make informed decisions for a sustainable health care system.

## Editorial: Bill on drug pricing would help state in figuring healthcare costs

The Los Angeles Times

April 26, 2015

By The Times Editorial Board

Los Angeles Times

"A new crop of specialty drugs holds great promise for treating or even curing some devastating diseases, but their high cost challenges health insurers and taxpayer-funded health programs. In California, Gov. Jerry Brown has asked for \$300 million in the coming fiscal year's budget just for specialty hepatitis C medications such as Sovaldi, which can cost Medi-Cal or the state prison system more than \$80,000 for a course of treatment. Before policymakers can figure out how to cope with the costs over the long term, they need to know more about why these drugs are priced as high as they are. That's where a new proposal by Assemblyman David Chiu (D-San Francisco) comes in...

**"Just because it's hard to shine a light on every aspect of drug pricing, however, doesn't mean pharmaceutical companies should keep the state completely in the dark."**

"Nevertheless, lawmakers can't hope to get a handle on rising healthcare costs without significantly more information about what's driving them.

"Chiu's bill wouldn't dictate where the state ultimately goes on prescription drug spending, but it would help policymakers make better choices."

Read more here: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-drug-prices-transparency-20150426-story.html>. See CAHP's fact sheet [Spotlight on Specialty Drugs](#).

### California Association of Health Plans

CAHP is a statewide trade association representing 43 full-service health plans. CAHP works to sustain a strong environment in which health plans can provide access to products that offer choice and flexibility to the more than 24 million members they serve. For more information, please visit [www.calhealthplans.org](http://www.calhealthplans.org) or call (916) 552-2910.