

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 13, 2017

CONTACT:

Mary Ellen Grant

(916) 552-2914

mgrant@calhealthplans.org

Senate Approves SB 17, Sends Crucial Rx Transparency Bill to Governor's Desk for Final Consideration

Pivotal Prescription Drug Price Transparency Bill Heads to Governor's Desk

Sacramento, CA – The California State Senate minutes ago joined the Assembly in voting to advance [SB 17](#) (Hernandez), marking a crucial milestone that will advance the prescription drug price transparency bill to the Governor's desk. The Senate advanced the bill on a 31-8 vote, a strong showing of support that comes on the heels of the Assembly's overwhelming 66-9 bipartisan vote to advance the bill on Monday.

Today's Senate concurrence marks the next-to-last stage of the bill's progress and puts California just a signature away from shining light on the pharmaceutical industry's pricing tactics that disproportionately impact California families and state budgets.

In response to SB 17's passage, California Association of Health Plans' President and CEO Charles Bacchi offered the following statement:

"SB 17's passage through the legislature is a huge win for Californians in the fight for affordable health care.

"SB 17 will help hold pharma to the same standards that the rest of California's health care sector adheres to and we're proud to stand with hundreds of organizations throughout the state in our staunch support of this bill and the fight to rein in prescription drug costs."

The bill's passage through the legislature comes after a multi-year battle by a broad and diverse coalition of consumer, labor, and business groups over skyrocketing prescription drug prices in California — SB 17 is the third attempt in as many years to find a legislative solution to the crisis. Previous efforts (SB 1010 and AB 463) were derailed due to the heavy lobbying efforts of the pharmaceutical industry. This year, calls for transparency from across the political spectrum were too strong to ignore with [nearly 90 percent](#) of Americans in favor of the idea.

###

CAHP is a statewide association representing 49 full-service health plans. Through legislative advocacy, education and collaboration with other member organizations, CAHP works to sustain a strong environment in which our member plans can provide access to products that offer choice and flexibility to the more than 25 million members they serve. For more information, please visit <http://www.calhealthplans.org/> or call (916) 552-2910.