

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### [Asbury Park Press](#): New Jersey Lawmakers Approve Health Insurance Mandate

**Sacramento, CA** – On April 12, 2018, the New Jersey legislature approved legislation to require all New Jerseyans to have health insurance. The bill, if signed by Democratic Governor Phil Murphy, would reinstate the individual mandate that the federal government repealed late last year. That federal mandate will officially expire in 2019. Other states are also considering legislation to enact state-level individual mandates.

California's health plans are strongly urging California lawmakers to also take action and adopt a statewide requirement to have health insurance coverage. This will help to protect California's individuals and families from coverage disruptions and higher premiums and stabilize the health care marketplace.

Here are excerpts from the [Asbury Park Press article](#) highlighting the action taken by New Jersey lawmakers:

"...Lawmakers Thursday sent to Gov. Phil Murphy a bill that will require nearly all New Jerseyans to have health insurance or pay a penalty in a bid to stabilize premiums for consumers in the Obamacare marketplace..."

"...The bills would most directly affect consumers who don't get health insurance through Medicare or their employer.

"...They are steps by the Democrat-controlled Legislature to protect the Affordable Care Act in the face of opposition from the Trump administration and Congress.

"...It's a two-pronged attack to get at premium costs," said Linda Schwimmer, president and chief executive officer of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, a research and advocacy group...

"...Without it, they said, young, healthy people would drop out of the market, leaving older and less healthy people stuck with the bill, making health care even less affordable.

"...Health insurance works when everyone is in," state Sen. Joseph Vitale, D-Middlesex, and one of the bill's sponsors, said last month."