

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 11, 2017

CONTACT:

Mary Ellen Grant

(916) 552-2914

mgrant@calhealthplans.org

Assembly Passes SB 17 Marking Major Milestone for Fight to Bring Drug Price Transparency to California

Crucial Drug Price Transparency Bill is Headed to the Senate Floor for Concurrence before Moving on to the Governor's Desk

Sacramento, CA – The California State Assembly moments ago passed [SB 17](#) (Hernandez) on a bipartisan 66 – 9 vote, sending the bill to the Senate floor for concurrence before moving on to the Governor's desk. With today's passage through the Assembly, California moves closer than ever to holding pharmaceutical companies accountable and reining in arbitrary drug price hikes that harm California families.

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 marks a critical milestone in the fight for long-term health care affordability.

“For too long, the pharmaceutical industry has operated in the dark, playing by their own rules while health plans, providers, hospitals and others work together to address the factors driving up costs – SB 17 will help change that by bringing pharma in line with the rest of the health care industry and we're proud to stand with leaders across California in support of this crucial legislation.”

The bill's passage through the Assembly is a major milestone for those impacted by rising drug prices, and the third attempt in as many years to find a legislative solution to the drug pricing crisis. Previous efforts were held up following heavy lobbying from the pharmaceutical industry. This year, bipartisan calls for transparency were too loud to ignore with organizations throughout the state lining up in support of SB 17 and [nearly 90 percent](#) of Americans in favor.

###

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.