

# PRESS RELEASE



California Association of  
**Health Plans**

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## **CAHP Issues Statement On Governor's 2020-2021 State Budget Release**

**Sacramento, CA**—California Association of Health Plans President & CEO Charles Bacchi today issued the following statement in response to Gov. Gavin Newsom's release of the 2020-21 state budget proposal:

"We are glad to see the Governor's budget proposal placing such an emphasis on making health care more affordable and accessible for all Californians. High medical and prescription drug costs are the main drivers of health plan premiums, and lowering these costs has long been a top priority for California's health plans.

"We are intrigued by many of the innovative ideas that he has included in his budget proposal such as creating a state generic prescription drug label. This could be particularly helpful in countering some of the shady patent protection schemes big pharma has been using for decades to keep generic drugs off the market, such as pay-for-delay deals.

"Other new proposals to extend Medi-Cal to undocumented seniors 65+, improve behavioral health outcomes, and build upon and streamline successful person-centered Medi-Cal managed care coordination programs, along with the health care affordability measures supported by health plans in last year's budget, including the mandate for all Californians to have health insurance coverage, and expanding coverage and subsidies to more low and middle income Californians will help to build upon and protect the gains California has made under the Affordable Care Act – bringing us closer than ever to achieving universal health coverage in our state.

"California leads the nation in accessible affordable health care and health plans play a vital role in ensuring Californians are receiving the high quality care they deserve. We look forward to working in partnership with the Administration to build upon this progress and continue to promote healthier communities across California."

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*CAHP is a statewide association representing 46 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.*