

# PRESS RELEASE



California Association of  
**Health Plans**

For Immediate Release:

January 8, 2021

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## ***CAHP Issues Statement on Governor's 2021-2022 State Budget Proposal***

**Sacramento, CA** — California Association of Health Plans President and CEO Charles Bacchi today issued the following statement in response to Gov. Gavin Newsom's release of the [2021-22 state budget proposal](#):

"Given the budget challenges our state is facing due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the impacts this crisis has had on our state's health care programs budgets, it is good to see that the Governor's budget proposal has prioritized increasing affordability, lowering prescription drug costs, improving behavioral health, and expanding upon efforts to address health disparities in our health care system – all important priorities for California's health plans."

"As part of our ongoing effort to improve healthcare affordability, we look forward to working with the Administration as it establishes the new Office of Health Care Affordability. This effort will serve to build upon affordability measures that were supported by health plans in previous budgets such as expanding coverage and subsidies to more low and middle income Californians and extending Medi-Cal to undocumented people, and bring us closer than ever to achieving universal health coverage in our state.

"Other proposals such as expanding telehealth flexibilities, funding for the expected increase in Medi-Cal enrollment, which is projected to reach 16.1 million beneficiaries in January, 2022 are crucial as we work to ensure those most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic have access to the care they need.

"We are also pleased the state is recommitted to moving forward with the "California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAim) initiative, which is a high priority for our Medi-Cal Managed Care plans that will build upon the successful person-centered Medi-Cal Managed Care programs that are designed to address complex health needs, reduce health disparities, and improve health outcomes for our state's most vulnerable.

"We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Administration during these unprecedented times and to build upon the progress we have made as we continue to promote improved health outcomes and affordable, quality care for all Californians."

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*CAHP is a statewide association representing 45 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 [www.calhealthplans.org](http://www.calhealthplans.org) or call (916) 552-2910.*