

# PRESS RELEASE



California Association of  
**Health Plans**



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### Capitol Weekly: Opinion: Affordable health care threatened by hospitals' mark-up costs

**June 14, 2022** – Capitol Weekly yesterday published an opinion editorial authored by Betty Jo Toccoli, president of the California Small Business Association on Senate Bill 958 (Sen. Limón).

In the piece, Toccoli discusses the economic impact the bill will have on small businesses that offer health care coverage to their employees. “SB 958 would do away with a safe and long-practiced process health insurers have implemented using specialty pharmacies to deliver clinically administered drugs directly to a health clinic or patient when it is safe to do so,” Betty says in the piece. The concern of Toccoli, and a growing coalition of small business owners and business groups, is that “SB 958 would severely limit specialty pharmacies’ ability to deliver lower cost medications to patients, while also making it even easier for hospitals to markup the cost they charge patients for critical medications, and in the end, we would see higher health care premiums for California’s employers and individuals.”

Other highlights from the op-ed are below:

#### Capitol Weekly: Opinion: Affordable health care threatened by hospitals’ mark-up costs

**Betty Jo Toccoli, president of the California Small Business Association**

**June 13, 2022**

“... providing health care that is both affordable and high quality to our employees and their families is still a top priority for those of us who run small businesses, but the California Legislature’s consideration of Senate Bill 958 has led many of us to believe they are working against us...”

“...A recent California Health Care Foundation study found the average monthly health insurance premium in California, including the employer contribution, was \$653 for single coverage and \$1,717 for family coverage...”

“... It is no surprise that this bill is sponsored by California hospitals – the very industry that would benefit from such a law...”

“...Studies have shown that hospitals commonly mark up drug costs when billing patients and health plans. The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) recently published a study finding that the nation’s top cancer hospitals are hiking drug prices by double to seven times their costs of acquiring cancer drugs. A prominent California columnist has also highlighted this common but seemingly unethical practice, which leads one to wonder, why are California lawmakers even considering this legislation?...”

“...Unfortunately, SB 958 is a prescription for higher health care premiums that will hurt California employers and workers by giving hospitals license to overcharge for life saving medications...”

“...If health care affordability is the goal of the California Legislature, they must reject bills like SB 958 that will increase premium costs for California employers and employees.”

To read Betty Jo Toccoli’s full opinion piece, [click here](#).