

# PRESS RELEASE



California Association of  
**Health Plans**

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**CAHP Issues Statement on Governor's January 2023-2024 State Budget**

**Sacramento, CA**— California Association of Health Plans President and CEO Charles Bacchi today issued the following statement in response to Governor Gavin Newsom's release of the 2023-24 state budget proposal:

"The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) appreciates the difficult state budget situation, with an expected budget deficit of \$22.5 billion this year. With tough decisions to be made in this environment, we look forward to working with the Administration to maintain a robust Medi-Cal managed care program in partnership with our member health plans.

"We are pleased the Governor is holding firm on expanded Medi-Cal coverage for Californians regardless of immigration status, which CAHP continues to strongly support, and which will move us closer than ever to universal health care in California. We are also pleased to see the Governor's continued commitment to the "California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal" (CalAIM) initiative at the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). We look forward to our continued partnership with the Administration on this innovative program designed to address complex health needs, reduce health disparities, and improve health outcomes for our state's most vulnerable.

"CAHP will engage in constructive discussions with DHCS over the proposed MCO tax. CAHP believes any such proposal should strongly consider how it may impact health care affordability for the millions of Californians that CAHP serves and is dedicated to improving the Medi-Cal program.

"The Governor's proposal to increase rates for Primary Care and obstetric services is a positive step toward closing the gap between Medi-Cal and Medicare rates and very important for those in need of pregnancy and newborn related services in the Medi-Cal program.

"We are disappointed the budget does not include funding to support increased affordability measures for people purchasing coverage through the Covered California exchange. We believe this is an important investment and will continue to support efforts to improve affordability and access to coverage for these individuals and families.

"We look forward to working with the Administration in 2023 as we continue to promote affordable and quality health care coverage for all Californians."

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*CAHP is a statewide association representing 44 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.*