



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### **CAPITOL WEEKLY: Health Care Affordability Efforts Must Include Everyone**

**June 12, 2024**— Capitol Weekly this week published an [opinion editorial](#) authored by California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) President and CEO Charles Bacchi, arguing that the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) must prioritize addressing hospital costs—the largest cost driver in the health care system.

The op-ed notes that the public has very little insight into what is driving hospital costs so high, with hospital costs accounting for 37 percent of overall health care spending in California. Commercial health plans are also paying more than 300 percent of what Medicare would have paid for the same service at the same facilities, and hospitals are marking up in-patient services and prescription drugs by as much as 675 percent, the op-ed notes.

Some other highlights from the op-ed include:

“...OHCA is beginning to work on how to measure hospital spending and costs. It is complicated by the multitude of murky ways in which hospitals receive their funding and a lack of transparency into their real funding and costs.

“...CHA subsequently launched a smear campaign attacking health plans. The timing of the campaign launch coincided with OHCA’s action to adopt the statewide spending targets—which we suspect was an attempt to deflect attention from the skyrocketing costs of hospital care.

“...Even though hospitals are now required by law to publicly post the costs of their services, many are not complying with these policies.

“...Why are hospital prices so high and how can we slow this growth? These questions cannot be adequately answered until we have more information, information that OHCA is working on acquiring, and that we suspect some hospitals will try and sidestep.

“...California’s hospitals do critical work and are very important to all of us. There are some legitimate reasons why hospital costs are so high. We should be prepared to have an honest and open discussion about it.

The full op-ed is available [here](#).