

# PRESS RELEASE



California Association of  
**Health Plans**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 12, 2026

### Contact:

Mary Ellen Grant

[mgrant@calhealthplans.org](mailto:mgrant@calhealthplans.org)

## **California Association of Health Plans Releases Fact Sheet on AB 298 *The Bill Fails California's Affordability Test, and will increase health care premiums by over \$700 MILLION***

**(January 12, 2026) Sacramento, CA** — The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) today released a [new fact sheet](#) outlining affordability concerns about Assembly Bill 298 (Bonta) and its impact on health care costs for Californians.

The fact sheet highlights findings from the non-partisan California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) that show, if passed, AB 298 will increase health care premiums in California by \$711.2 million.

These higher costs would be paid for by California families, workers, and employers through increased monthly premiums.

“California is already facing a health care affordability crisis,” the fact sheet states. “Families and individuals are losing access to Medi-Cal, and federal subsidies that lower health care coverage costs remain uncertain. **In this environment, adding more than \$700 million in new premium costs moves California in the wrong direction.**”

The fact sheet also notes that **AB 298 conflicts with California's broader affordability strategy, including the work of the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) to slow health care spending growth**, and would add new mandates while the state awaits a federal decision on California's revised Essential Health Benefits package

Find the fact sheet, [“AB 298 Fails the Affordability Test,”](#) on CAHP's website.

###

*CAHP is a statewide association representing 41 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 28 million members they serve. For more information, please visit [www.calhealthplans.org](http://www.calhealthplans.org) or call (916) 552-2910.*