



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **California Health Plan Industry Responds to Governor's Decision to Withdraw Emergency Status for Ban on Balance Billing Regulations**

**Statement from Christopher Ohman, President/CEO, California Association of Health Plans**

**Sacramento, CA** – “We are pleased to see that the Administration is moving forward on important consumer protections that will ban the practice of physicians balance billing a health plan member. While we are disappointed that these regulations will not be done on an emergency basis, we are confident that the Governor and the Department of Managed Health Care will work quickly to put these consumer protections into place.

“We do believe that emergency services physicians are currently being paid appropriately in the marketplace. However, if and when a payment dispute arises, providers and health plans must work to keep consumers and patients out of the middle of these disputes.

“Our industry will continue to work closely with the Administration on the development of these regulations, protecting consumers from inappropriate billing and collection practices.”

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The California Association of Health Plans is a statewide trade association representing 38 Knox-Keene licensed health plans that provide health coverage to more than 21 million Californians. The Association's mission is to improve the health of California's communities by promoting the growth of health plans dedicated to providing high quality, affordable, accessible health care to their members.