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FLOOR ALERT

August 18, 2014

TO: Members of the Assembly

FROM: Nicholas Louizos, Director of Legislative Affairs 

**SUBJECT: SB 964 (HERNANDEZ)
SURVEYS AND REPORTS: APA EXEMPTION
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP), representing 42 public and private organizations that collectively deliver health care services to more than 21 million Californians, has taken an oppose unless amended position on SB 964 because it exempts the development and adoption of the standardized reporting methodologies by the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

The requirements of the APA are designed to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the adoption of state regulations and to ensure that regulations are clear, necessary and legally valid. We oppose exempting the development and adoption of standardized reporting methodologies by the DMHC without a valid reason because it sets a bad precedent, especially during a time when the public is asking for more transparency on the part of government and health plans.

We have been working closely with the author and sponsor of this bill to address our concerns, and appreciate the progress that has been made to narrow other provisions of the bill. The attention on access is also commendable during major market changes. We must note, however, that DMHC regulations currently ensure enrollees timely access to necessary health care services.

For the reasons above we remain opposed to SB 964.

cc: Kelly Green, Consultant
Peter Anderson, Republican Consultant
Sherrie Lowenstein, Department of Managed Health Care
Donna Campbell, Health and Human Services Agency
David Panush, California Health Benefit Exchange
Lark Park, Governor's Office