

Statement from Mary Ellen Grant, spokesperson for the California Association of Health Plans.

“We were disappointed that the [Governor vetoed Senate Bill 944](#) which would have leveraged state and federal subsidy dollars to reduce costs for consumers by lowering out-of-pocket costs and eliminating deductibles for consumers. These cost reductions would have been achieved without impacting premiums. Health plans have and will continue to be strong advocates for affordable health care. As you know, CAHP was a strong supporter of the state individual shared responsibility requirement to reduce the uninsured gap, make health care more affordable and generate new state revenues.

“While we acknowledge that California could be heading into rough economic waters, the state revenues generated by the shared responsibility requirement should be used to help lower health care costs for those who need it most.

“Heading into 2023, we will continue to work with advocates, the Legislature and the Newsom Administration to support efforts to make health care more affordable, including addressing the cost of high-priced drugs, which continue to be a top driver of health care costs. We will also strongly encourage lawmakers to avoid introducing one-off benefit mandates that drive up the cost of health care premiums for everyone. Hospital and provider costs are also top cost drivers of premium prices, and we will work to defeat efforts to maintain these high costs, such as continued attempts to dismantle prior authorization programs, which would drive up costs and threaten patient safety.”