



April 4, 2018

The Honorable Jim Wood
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

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**SUBJECT: AB 2789 (WOOD) HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS:
PRESCRIPTIONS: ELECTRONIC DATA TRANSMISSION – SUPPORT
ASSEMBLY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE
SET FOR HEARING: APRIL 10, 2018**

Dear Dr. Wood:

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT** your measure **AB 2789**, as amended April 3, 2018, which would help reduce overprescribing or fraudulent prescriptions. This bill is one of several coordinated measures to curb opioid addiction and abuse, and decrease the associated high costs of prescription drugs on healthcare premiums, and human lives.

CAHU **SUPPORTS AB 2789** which would require health care practitioners authorized to issue prescriptions to have the capability to transmit electronic transmission prescriptions, and would require pharmacies to have the capability to receive those transmissions. CAHU believes the requirement that prescriptions be submitted electronically, with limited exceptions would help to reduce fraud, eliminate prescription errors and facilitate information in the state's CURES database to be available to prescribers in a more timely fashion.

CAHU is the state's largest association of health insurance agents, brokers and other health insurance industry professionals. Our members help millions of individual Californians and businesses evaluate, select, purchase and use their health care coverage plans, resulting in greater health and financial security- all at no cost to the consumer. CAHU agents and brokers also act as advocates for policyholders and their families year round to help them with questions or when coverage disputes arise. CAHU agents and brokers also perform many functions for small employers with respect to managing their employee benefits program--at no additional cost to the small employer.

CAHU is supportive of your bill and the coordinated efforts in the legislature to curb opioid addiction and abuse. CAHU believes **AB 2789** will decrease the associated high costs of fraudulent prescription drugs on healthcare premiums, and more importantly, improve safety and quality of life for those we serve. For these reasons and more, we look forward to working with you and your staff in **SUPPORT** of **AB 2789**.

Sincerely,

Faith Lane Borges

On behalf of the California Association of Health Underwriters

cc: Chair and Members, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Robert Sumner, Principal Consultant, Business and Professions Committee
Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus