

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



April 3, 2014

The Honorable Ken Cooley
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2188
Sacramento, California 95814

Michael D. Belote

Dennis K. Albiani

Julianne A. Broyles

Lexi Purich Howard

John F. O'Malley

Ralph F. Simoni

**SUBJECT: AB 1877 (COOLEY)--CALIFORNIA VISION CARE ACCESS COUNCIL –
OPPOSE
ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE
SET FOR HEARING: APRIL 8, 2014**

Dear Assembly Member Cooley:

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) sincerely regrets we must **OPPOSE** your **AB 1877**, as amended April 2, 2014, that seeks to establish a new California Vision Care Access Council within the Health Benefit Exchange.

While understanding and acknowledging the well-intentioned purpose, CAHU must **OPPOSE AB 1877**. The bill proposes to create a new California Vision Care Council Exchange marketplace, located within the California Health Benefit Exchange. Consumers and agents continue to struggle with the current Exchange's faulty computer and phone systems, hours-long wait times for service, among many other functionality problems.

Massive system faults also led to the California Small Business Health Options (SHOP) Exchange being taken down until at least 2015. CAHU believes that, no matter how well intentioned, until the existing Exchange systems work as planned and as promised, no additional structures should be added.

The California Association of Health Underwriters 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. CAHU agents and brokers also act as advocates for policyholders and their families when coverage disputes arise. CAHU agents and brokers perform many functions for small employers with respect to managing their employee benefits program--at no additional cost to the small employer

We are available to discuss our concerns with you and your staff at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Julianne Broyles
On Behalf of California Association of Health Underwriters

cc: Office of the Governor
Members, Assembly Health Committee
Benjamin Russell, Assembly Health Committee Consultant
Kevin Hanley, Assembly Republican Caucus Consultant