

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



CONFIDENTIAL

September 13, 2012

Ralph F. Simoni

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Michael D. Belote

Julianne A. Broyles

SUBJECT: AB 1731 (BLOCK)--NEW UNFUNDED MANDATE – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dennis K. Albiani

Dear Governor Brown:

*Robert G. Walters
of Counsel*

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) respectfully requests a **VETO** of **AB 1731 (Block)**, which is currently upon your desk awaiting action. **AB 1731** has the potential to increase cost of health insurance coverage by establishing a new unfunded mandate for tests on newborns.

As passed by Legislature, **AB 1731** establishes the Newborn Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) Screening Program and requires hospitals, as of July 1, 2013, to offer a special screening test for CCHD to parents of newborns prior to discharge.

For the record, CAHU supports good health for all Californians. However, CAHU is concerned that this legislation will force yet another unfunded mandate upon health care providers, therefore adding a cost burden within the health care system. We know that **AB 1731** sponsors have the best of intentions, but CAHU must oppose the bill due to the ultimate costs that will be passed on to health care consumers in California.

The California Association of Health Underwriters (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. 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.

For these reasons, CAHU urges a **VETO** of **AB 1731 (Block)** when it comes before you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Julianne Broyles

On Behalf of California Association of Health Underwriters

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