

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



June 5, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dennis K. Albiani

Michael D. Belote

Julianne A. Broyles

John F. O'Malley

Ralph F. Simoni

**SUBJECT: SB 126 (STEINBERG)—HEALTH CARE COVERAGE: PERVASIVE
DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER OR AUTISM - SUPPORT
ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE
SCHEDULED FOR HEARING: JUNE 11, 2013**

Dear Senator Steinberg:

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **SB 126**, as introduced, that ensures continued coverage for those with autism or developmental disorders by providing a five-year extension to the existing program.

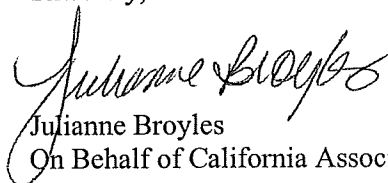
SB 126 extends, until July 1, 2019, the sunset date of an existing state health benefit mandate that requires health plans and health insurance policies to cover behavioral health therapy for pervasive developmental disorder or autism.

Health plans and health insurers are already required to provide coverage for these conditions provided it is medically necessary under both state and federal health parity laws. CAHU believes that **SB 126** will keep an important door open for five more years to ensure those diagnosed with pervasive developmental or autism receive medically necessary treatment from qualified autism services providers.

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.

CAHU looks forward to working with you and your staff in **SUPPORT** of **SB 126 (Steinberg)**.

Sincerely,



Julianne Broyles
On Behalf of California Association of Health Underwriters

cc: Office of Governor Brown
Members, Assembly Health Committee
Teri Boughton, Assembly Health Committee
Peter Anderson and Kevin Hanley, Assembly Republican Caucus