


CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



May 1, 2015

TO: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

FROM: Julianne Broyles 
On Behalf of California Association of Health Underwriters

SUBJECT: **SB 137 (HERNANDEZ)--PROVIDER DIRECTORIES – SUPPORT
SET FOR HEARING: MAY 4, 2015**

Michael D. Belote

Dennis K. Albiani

Julianne A. Broyles

Lexi Purich Howard

John F. O'Malley

Ralph F. Simoni

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 137 (Hernandez)**, as amended April 21, 2015, that that will help improve the accuracy of health plan and insurer provider network directories.

SB 137 would require a health plan and insurer to make a provider directory available on its Internet Web site and to update the directory weekly. The bill would require the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance to develop rules to ensure consistency across the health plan and insurer directories for ease of use by all.

CAHU believes that accurate provider directories are a critical piece of information for health care consumers. From the agent perspective, accurate directories will permit agents help their clients (individuals, families and employers) more effectively. Agents hear on a regular basis from their current and prospective clients of their desire, if possible, to stay with a specific medical provider or want to ensure a particular hospital or clinic is covered by a policy or group plan. Being able to access this important information in a timely and efficient fashion will help the agent select plans for consideration that include the preferred provider, hospital and clinics before the client chooses to purchase, change or renew their health insurance plan or policy.

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 also perform many functions for small employers with respect to managing their employee benefits program--at no additional cost to the small employer.

For this reason, CAHU urges an “**AYE**” vote on **SB 137 (Hernandez)** when it comes before you for consideration.

cc: Office of Governor Brown
The Honorable Ed Hernandez
Brendan McCarthy, Senate Appropriations Committee
Amy Throne, Senate Republican Fiscal Office