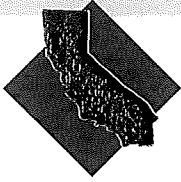



CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



August 27, 2013

TO: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Dennis K. Albiani

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

Michael D. Belote

SUBJECT: **SB 494 (MONNING)--HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS:
WIDER ACCESS - SUPPORT
SCHUEDULED FOR HEARING: AUGUST 30, 2013**

Julianne A. Broyles

John F. O'Malley

Ralph E. Simoni

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT SB 494 (Monning)**, as amended August 19, 2013, regarding wider access to health care.

SB 494 allows a health plan to increase the number of patients assigned to a primary care provider if led by a physician who employs one or more physician assistants or nurse practitioners.

CAHU believes the change in law will broaden access to care by health care consumers by permitting physicians to use the skills of these licensed medical professionals in a more efficient way as part of their practices. Under the doctor's supervision, these licensed medical professionals will be able to prescribe medication, conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, and assist in surgery. CAHU believes this is an important adjustment to make with open enrollment for new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act health coverage beginning October 1, 2013, and services provided to newly eligible enrollees and policyholders starting January 1, 2014.

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 your "AYE" vote on **SB 494 (Monning)** when it comes before you for consideration.

cc: Office of Governor Brown
The Honorable Bill Monning
Lisa Murawski, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Anthony Archie, Assembly Republican Caucus Fiscal Office