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May 16, 2019

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
State Capitol, Room 2130
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1309 (Bauer-Kahan) Health Care Coverage: Enrollment Periods

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan:

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT** your measure **AB 1309**, as proposed to be amended coming off of the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File, which would extend the enrollment periods for individuals both on and off of the California Health Benefits Exchange (Covered California) in 2020 from November 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020.

Extending special enrollment into January allows agents to reach more consumers and get them enrolled during a very busy time of year – the Holiday season. Further, **AB 1309** gives agents and brokers the opportunity to adequately help mitigate the harmful impacts on consumers from ongoing rate increases, and uncertainty due to constant changes at the federal level.

CAHU has been an active stakeholder, supporter and participant with Covered California and as a result, the percentages of those who are uninsured are at record lows. It is important to note that licensed, certified health insurance agents contributed in large part to this success story, having helped millions of Californians find and keep affordable health care coverage. It is critical that California continues to enact good policy such as **AB 1309**, to continue a healthy risk mix, competitive marketplace and decreases in the number of the uninsured.

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, families and businesses evaluate, select, purchase, and use their health care coverage plans. Our agents and brokers also serve as consumer advocates for policyholders and their families year round to help with questions and if coverage disputes arise - all at no additional cost to the consumer.

For these reasons and more, CAHU looks forward to working with you and your staff in **SUPPORT** of **AB 1309**. To reach Faith Lane Borges, please call 916-441-5050.

Sincerely,

Faith Lane Borges

On behalf of the California Association of Health Underwriters

cc: Kristene Mapile, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus