

CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES, INC.



July 6, 2017

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

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**SUBJECT: AB 1534 (NAZARIAN): HEALTH CARE COVERAGE: HIV SPECIALISTS
– SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Nazarian,

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **AB 1534**, as amended June 26, 2017, that will protect patients with human immunodeficiency virus HIV from having to pay for specialist level co-pays, by adding HIV specialists as designated primary care providers (PCP) for health plans and policies issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2018.

According to the California Health Benefits Review Program's (CHBRP) carrier survey, most health plans and policies, including Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans and plans accessed through CalPERS, allow HIV specialists to act as PCPs if the HIV specialist meets the health plan's PCP requirements. However, the Aids Healthcare Foundation has reported that this is not always the case. **AB 1534** will provide needed clarity and more cost effective care and access for those living with HIV.

Changing the PCP designation will make visits to these providers subject to less expensive regular office visit co-pays and will reduce administrative impediments, such as ordering tests or making additional referrals. CAHU believes **AB 1534** will help patients living with HIV with improved continuity of care for a disease that was once acute but has become manageable today with chronic care.

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.

CAHU looks forward to working with you and your staff in **SUPPORT** of **AB 1534**. Faith Lane or Julianne Broyles may be reached at (916) 441-5050.

Sincerely,

Faith Lane

Julianne Broyles

On behalf of the California Association of Health Underwriters

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