

CALIFORNIA
ADVOCATES, INC.



March 13, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2148
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 251 (BONTA) HEALTH AND CARE FACILITIES – SUPPORT
ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE
SET FOR HEARING: MARCH 21, 2017**

Dear Assemblyman Bonta:

The California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU) is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **AB 251**, as introduced, which will ensure health care consumers are afforded continued access to certified specialty clinics throughout California.

AB 251 would provide an extra year for the Department of Public Health and the Department of Developmental Services to complete rulemaking and enforcement authority of federal certification standards for chronic dialysis clinics, surgical clinics, rehabilitation clinics, and intermediate care facilities/developmentally disabled-nursing facilities. SB 534 (Hernandez, Chapter 722, Statutes of 2013) required these specialty clinics to meet federal certification standards under the Department of Public Health and gave authority to the departments to adopt licensing regulations for these facilities. This authority is currently scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2018. AB 251 will extend the sunset date to January 1, 2019.

Without a sunset extension or new state regulations, the departments' would lose their authority to enforce many current requirements designed to improve patient safety and ensure adequate oversight of management and governance. Our members help thousands of low income individuals and seniors select and enroll in Medi-Cal Medi-Care (Medi-Medi) plans each year. CAHU believes these specialty clinics provide important services when health care consumers need care that is not at the level provided by an acute care hospital, but when they do still need a supportive, hands-on health care environment. CAHU believes AB 251 will ensure these clinics remain available to those in need throughout California.

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.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in **SUPPORT of AB 251 (Bonta)**.

Sincerely,

Julianne Broyles
On behalf of CAHU

Faith Lane
On behalf of CAHU

cc: Members, Assembly Health Committee
Lara Flynn, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Peter Anderson, Republican Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus