



CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES

September 13, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE on SB 944 (Pan) California Health Benefit Exchange:
affordability assistance**

Dear Governor Newsom,

California Agents & Health Insurance Professionals (CAHIP) respectfully **REQUESTS your SIGNATURE on SB 944**, which would require Covered California to implement options it developed with stakeholders, including CAHIP (formerly California Association of Health Underwriters (CAHU)), to reduce cost-sharing, including copays, coinsurance, and maximum out-of-pocket costs, and eliminate deductibles to the extent feasible with federal funding.

CAHIP 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 – including Covered California. Our agents and brokers also serve as consumer advocates for policyholders and their families year-round to help with questions and possible coverage disputes - all at no additional cost to the consumer.

CAHIP is proud of our agents that continue to be the largest source of Covered California enrollment- with over 11,000 agents speaking 40+ languages working in 500 storefronts across the state. Through this work, agents have seen the impact that the American Rescue Plan has had on their clients' premiums with two-thirds of Covered California members paying \$10 or less per month. While agents are eager to share that premiums have never been more affordable for Californians in the greatest need, there is still cautious concern about the reality of financial constraints for those enrollees when it comes to additional cost-sharing to fully realize their coverage.

When the American Rescue Plan was passed, California was given the opportunity to redirect \$334 million in state funding that would have otherwise gone towards state premium spending. AB 133 provided an opportunity to reimagine what the state can do with redirected funds to provide meaningful relief for Californians that have struggled financially in the wake of the COVID-19. This bill continues the work of implementing and funding thoughtfully designed cost-sharing reduction measures for plan year 2023 and beyond.

CAHIP supports efforts to make coverage truly affordable for Californians and these bills help achieve that objective in a meaningful way. For these reasons and more, **CAHIP REQUESTS YOUR SIGNATURE ON SB 944**. To reach Faith Lane Borges, please call 916-441-5050.

Sincerely,

Faith Lane Borges
On behalf of California Agents & Health Insurance Professionals

cc: Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office