



March 31, 2019

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
California State Capitol, Room 2130
P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0016

Re: AB 1309 (Bauer-Kahan) Health care coverage: enrollment periods – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan,

I am writing to you on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support AB 1309. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations. Affordable healthcare is one of our top priorities.

AB 1309 would extend California's annual open enrollment period by two additional weeks, allowing more Californians to buy health coverage. AB 1309 would move back the open enrollment deadline from January 15th to January 31st for people to purchase individual insurance coverage either through our state's exchange, Covered California, or off-exchange.

Every year, consumers who purchase their own insurance have to make key decisions that will have significant financial and health impacts on their lives, taking all aspects of coverage into consideration, such as provider networks, premiums and cost-sharing. Forcing people to jam these important and complicated decisions into just a few weeks during the holiday season makes it more difficult for Californians to get the best coverage for them and their families. .

Providing consumers additional time to educate themselves about different plan options and their costs and purchase the right health coverage is the sensible thing to do, especially during a hectic, stressful, and costly holiday season.

For these reasons, CARA supports AB 1309 and looks forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244