



June 11, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senator Pan,

I am writing on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support AB 1042 1309 , which as amended May 20, would extend California's annual open enrollment period by two additional weeks when the new year begins, 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. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations.

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.

AB 1309 would change California's annual open enrollment period from October 15 to January 15, to November 1 to January 31 of the following year for consumers to sign up for individual coverage in off-exchange or on-exchange in Covered California.

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 respectfully requests your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244