



June 10, 2019

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

RE: AB 929 (L. Rivas) as amended, California Health Benefit Exchange: data collection – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Pan,

I am writing on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support AB 929. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations. Healthcare for all Californians is one of our highest priorities.

AB 929 would require health plan specific reporting of cost, quality, and health disparities data are made publicly available by Covered California. The collection and reporting of such data are important first steps in the ongoing work of improving costs, quality in care delivery, and health disparities reduction.

Covered California requires qualified health plans to commit to control costs, improve quality, and reduce health disparities through its contracts with health plans. Specifically, health plans that participate in Covered California are required to report data on how they are reducing disparities by race and ethnicity with regards to: diabetes, asthma, hypertension and depression. They also report on reductions in maternal mortality and other quality improvements.

Because plan-specific data is not public, no one is able to determine which plans are effectively improving quality and reducing disparities, especially in communities of color and other vulnerable communities. Disaggregated data is also necessary to hold health plans accountable to meeting quality improvements efforts, disparities reduction, and cost containment that not only directly benefit health care consumers/patients, but also the overall health care system. Looking at plan-specific data can help us better understand the problems, whether it is access to care or health disparities between groups.

AB 929 would address this data collection problem by legally requiring health plans and insurers to submit enrollee data and for Covered California to publish such plan-specific data.

For these reasons, CARA supports AB 929, as amended, and respectfully requests your "AYE" vote.

Sincerely,

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

Hene Kelly
Legislative Director
415-533-5244