Put on your organization’s letterhead

**Sample Support Letter: SB 17 (Hernandez)**

Send to: aimee.anspach@sen.ca.gov and jtapia@health-access.org

(Insert Date)

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, Author

California State Senate

State Capitol, Room 2080

Sacramento, CA 95814

 Re: SB 17 (Hernandez): SUPPORT

 As amended, March 14, 2017

Dear Senator Hernandez:

(Insert name of organization) supports SB 17 (Hernandez), which as amended March 14, 2017, would provide greater transparency for prescription drug prices.

Prescription drug prices keep climbing. Many consumers have a hard time affording their co-pays and other drug costs. As a result, too many people skip their prescriptions, cut pills in half or go without other necessary care as a result of higher and higher drug costs. Health insurance premiums paid by consumers are also being driven up by prescription drug costs.

SB 17 (Hernandez) will provide greater transparency on prescription drug costs. It requires advance notice of price hikes for existing drugs be given to public purchasers like Medi-Cal and CalPERS and private purchasers including health plans and insurers. It also enhances public disclosure of information about drug pricing by requiring drug manufacturers to file information about the rationale for pricing increase, marketing costs, and other specifics with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The bill also requires health plans and insurers to disclose information about drug pricing through existing rate review processes at the Department of Managed Health Care and Department of Insurance.

Too many people spend too much money on their prescription drugs. Advance notice and public scrutiny of the reasons for ever-increasing prescription drug costs will provide greater transparency. Shining a light on the costs of prescription drugs is a first step in reducing those costs. For this reason, we support SB 17 (Hernandez) as amended on March 14, 2017.

Sincerely,

Name

Title