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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

March 23, 2016

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AFTER ITS PASSAGE SIX YEARS AGO, CALIFORNIA REAPS BENEFITS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- *Still, Some Members of California Congressional Delegation Continue to Vote for Its Repeal, Which Would Yank Away Quality, Affordable Coverage for Millions of Californians*
- *ACA Still Vulnerable to Presidential Repeal; President Obama Vetoed Last Repeal; Next Election & President to Decide Fate of ACA*

SACRAMENTO, CA- As the Affordable Care Act turns six years old, consumer advocates hail the achievements made in California to cover the uninsured, improve the quality of care and bring affordable, quality health coverage to millions of Californians.

Six years ago today, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law. In addition to allowing states the option and funding to create state-based health insurance marketplaces, this landmark law also put into place key consumer protections that impacted all health plans. These protections include allowing children to stay on their parent's health plan until age 26; prohibiting insurance companies from discriminating based on pre-existing conditions; prohibiting insurance companies for charging higher rates based on gender; providing wellness visits at no cost to the patient; and closing the "donut hole" in Medicare prescription drug coverage, just to name a few.

California has particularly benefited from the Affordable Care Act, being one of the 17 states that opted to create a state-based health insurance marketplace. Further, California was the first of 32 states to adopt Medicaid Expansion, expanding Medi-Cal coverage for most low-income adults to 138% of the federal poverty level. Both of these actions has helped cut the uninsured rate in California in half.

California continues to leverage the Affordable Care Act and build upon it to improve the overall health system in California. As an "active purchaser," Covered California has successfully slowed the rate of growth in premium costs to around 4% for each of the last two years. Covered California leaders continue to examine how to expand coverage, improve quality, slow the growth in health care costs and improve the overall health system in California.

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“Californians should be proud of the progress we have made implementing and improving the Affordable Care Act, from expanding access to health insurance coverage, strengthening the health care safety-net and working to improve quality and reduce costs. California has cut the number of uninsured in half, put in new consumer protections, and seen slower growth of premium costs. This year, California is improving upon the federal law, and will be expanding coverage to all children regardless of immigration status, adding to the millions of Californians that have become insured for the first time and still others have gained important new security with the coverage they already have,” said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition.

Yet, despite these gains, members of the California Congressional delegation continue to vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This winter, both the House of Representative and the Senate passed bills that would dismantle the Affordable Care Act and its protections and funding. While President Obama vetoed this legislation, a new President could make a different decision, creating another high-stakes election for the future of the Affordable Care Act.

“California has reaped the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. It is hard to believe that members of the California Congressional delegation continue to vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. It would cost the state an estimated \$13 billion to replace the revenues for our health system, if the ACA was gone. We call on all the members of the Congressional delegation to build upon the successes we have had in California, work to expand access to the remaining uninsured and continue to improve the health system on which we all rely,” continued Wright.

The members of the California Congressional delegation that voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act and yank away coverage for millions of Californians are:

- Rep. Ken Calvert
- Rep. Paul Cook
- Rep. Jeff Denham
- Rep. Duncan Hunter
- Rep. Darrell Issa
- Rep. Steve Knight
- Rep. Doug LaMalfa
- Rep. Kevin McCarthy
- Rep. Tom McClintock
- Rep. Devin Nunes
- Rep. Dana Rohrabacher
- Rep. Edward Royce
- Rep. David Valadao
- Rep. Mimi Walters

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