

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FIGHT CONTINUES ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS, DESPITE DEMISE OF SB 1010

- *Big Pharma Pushed to Gut SB1010 (Hernandez), Key Prescription Drug Transparency Bill, in Assembly Appropriations Committee.*
- *After Amendments to Exempt 99% of Prescription Drugs from Transparency, Author and Sponsors Decide Not to Move SB 1010 This Year, Focus on Future Fight with Redoubled Effort.*
- *Health Access California and Other Consumer Advocates Vow Continued Action. Public Attention and Anger at Prescription Drug Prices Continues to Climb, Which Politicians Ignore at Their Own Peril.*

SACRAMENTO, CA – Consumer advocates, working with key legislators, labor unions, business, and health purchasers, vowed to continue the fight on prescription drug price transparency, even while holding [SB 1010 \(Hernandez\)](#) after recent amendments gutted the bill. Last Thursday, SB 1010 which would provide transparency in prescription drug prices, was substantially amended coming off of the Assembly Appropriations suspense file. The author and sponsors concluded that the amendments exempt as many as 99% of drug price hikes and therefore is no longer worth pursuing this year, but are committed to intensifying their efforts to win reforms that help consumers afford needed medications. The bill was vigorously opposed by the pharmaceutical industry.

“The amended version of the bill wasn’t half a loaf, but crumbs, exempting 99 percent of prescription drug price hikes from any notice, disclosure, or justification. We will redouble our efforts for future fights to provide the real transparency and relief that California consumers deserve. The voters are with us and will be even more so in the future: every new high-priced drug or unjustified price spike only increases public attention and anger on this issue,” said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition and co-sponsor of SB 1010 with the California Labor Federation. “Big Pharma not only charges us outrageous prices, but they used that money to lobby and defeat this legislation that provided minimal transparency and justification for those prices. As a result, hardworking Californians see their health care costs climb ever higher, in part due to increasing drug costs. This bill would have given Californians the first real look at why drug prices keep soaring, and we are committed to continuing this fight.”



SB 1010 would have provided 30-day advance notice of prescription drug price hikes for both public and private purchasers, as well as greater disclosure of prescription drug cost trends. Big Pharma has already successfully defeated a number of proposed sunshine laws across the country.

“While Big Pharma’s profits grow, high drug prices continue to push up health care costs, meaning not only increased premiums but also that uninsured and underinsured patients cannot afford their medications, forcing them to skip doses, cut pills in half, and face the health and financial consequences of not getting the care they need,” added Wright. “Public anger spurred SB 1010 and several other efforts to address the issue of high-priced medications this year, and consumer advocates vow to keep pushing this issue through a variety of means. Big Pharma may have big money, but every voter knows someone personally concerned about the rising cost of prescription drugs. By bill or ballot measure or some other means, there has to be transparency and some relief on prescription drug prices.”

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#### *About Health Access California*

*Health Access California is the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition, advocating for the goal of quality, affordable health care for all Californians. We represent consumers in the legislature, at administrative and regulatory agencies, in the media, and at public forums. For more information, please visit [www.health-access.org](http://www.health-access.org).*

