

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, August 18, 2016

COVERED CALIFORNIA TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT AND VOTE TODAY ON 1332 WAIVER TO OPEN ITSELF TO ALL CALIFORNIANS, REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

- *Application Seeks Federal Waiver to Allow Undocumented Californians to Buy Unsubsidized Coverage Through Covered California.*
- *Bipartisan SB10 (Lara) Authorized Covered California to Seek Federal "1332 Waiver" From ACA Rule; California Would Be One of the First States to Use New Waiver Process, and The First to Request a Waiver For This Purpose*
- *Today's Hearing Will Take Public Comment on the Draft Waiver and Can Be Viewed Live [Here](#).*
- *Health Access California Spearheaded Sign-On Letter Including 67 Organizations in Support*

SACRAMENTO, CA—Today, Covered California will hear public comment on [a draft of a federal waiver application to allow all Californians to access the state health insurance marketplace, regardless of immigration status](#). This is the next step in the continued actions to submit the waiver, which will be sent to the federal government following a vote made at the hearing.

WHAT: Covered California Board Meeting to Hear Public Comment and Vote on 1332 Waiver

WHEN: TODAY, Thursday, August 18, 2016

TIME: 12:00pm PST is when open session is projected to begin. The 1332 Waiver agenda item will be after the Executive Director's report.

WHERE: Covered California's offices at 1601 Exposition Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95815

The Public can also:

- Listen in by phone: 1-800-230-1085, or
- Watch the live-feed: <http://board.coveredca.com/meetings/video/>
- Send in comments: 1332@covered.ca.gov or mail care of Mandy Garcia at Covered California

Public comments are accepted through September 5, 2016 by 4:30 pm PST.

Earlier this year, Governor Brown signed SB10(Lara), which, with broad bipartisan backing in both houses of the Legislature, authorized the state to apply for a federal waiver that would allow undocumented immigrants to buy unsubsidized health coverage through Covered California. Currently, undocumented immigrants are barred from using the state marketplace under the Affordable Care Act even when using their own money and instead must go directly to a broker or health plan to purchase health insurance.

“Excluding Californians from using their own money to buy coverage on our state marketplace, because of their immigration status, doesn’t reflect our state’s values of openness and inclusion. Allowing Covered California to serve all Californians would make our marketplace work better, while not having any costs or other negative impacts on affordability, benefits, or the federal or state deficit,” said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition. Health Access and the California Immigrant Policy Center were joined by over 65 organizations on a sign-on letter in support of the 1332 waiver application.

Under “1332 waivers,” the federal government can allow states to change certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act, as long as the state can show it will meet the same goals of number of people covered, affordability, comprehensiveness of coverage, and cost to the federal government. California would make history as one of the first states to use the 1332 waiver process under the ACA, and the first state to pursue such a waiver for this purpose.

Reference materials:

[Covered California Meeting Agenda](#)

[Sign-On Letter to CoveredCA in Support of the Draft Application for Section 1332 Waiver](#)

[CoveredCA application and related materials for a federal 1332 waiver](#)

Learn more about Health Access’s work on [Implementing and Improving on the Affordable Care Act](#)

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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.

