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For immediate release:

Friday, August 5th, 2016

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## COVERED CALIFORNIA RELEASES DRAFT OF 1332 WAIVER TO OPEN ITSELF TO ALL CALIFORNIANS, REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

- *Application Seeks Federal Waiver to Remove Exclusion and Allow Undocumented Californians to Buy Unsubsidized Coverage Through Covered California:* <http://hbex.coveredca.com/stakeholders/Covered%20California%201332%20Waiver/index.shtml>
- *Bipartisan SB10(Lara) Authorized Covered California to Seek Federal "1332 Waiver" From ACA Rule; Would Be One of the First States to Use New Waiver Process*
- *Draft Application Shows No Negative Impacts on Affordability, Benefits, or State & Federal Spending; Would Extend California's Policy of Immigrant Inclusion, Allow Mixed-Status Working Families to Enroll in Coverage Together*
- *Bill Had Bipartisan Support in California, Including Unanimous Democratic Support and 2 Republican Senators & 3 Republican Assemblymembers*

SACRAMENTO, CA—Today, Covered California released for public comment [a draft of a federal waiver application to allow all Californians to access the state health insurance marketplace, regardless of immigration status](#). Earlier this year, Governor Brown signed the bipartisan-backed [SB 10 \(Lara\)](#), which 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.

“With the draft application, California has taken another small but important step toward a more inclusive and stronger health care system. This draft federal waiver application shows how opening up 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. We look forward to the public comment and California moving quickly to submit the application to remove this counterproductive exclusion. This proposal is not just a benefit for working immigrant

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families to more easily sign up for coverage, but more Californians covered helps the health and financial vitality of the entire community,” said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition. “Beyond the important symbolism of inclusion, this waiver application details how this policy will provide a practical benefit for many California families with mixed immigration status, who will be able to buy coverage together easily, even if some family members are eligible for financial assistance and others are not.”

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.

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