



March 20, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood, Chair  
Assembly Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6005  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*RE:* Legislation pending on health plan data collection (AB 929)

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America and the more than 3.9 million in California, Small Business Majority writes today in support of AB 929, which would require that current data reporting on health plan cost, quality and outcome required by Covered California be made publicly available. Making this data publicly available would increase transparency about healthcare costs and outcomes that would further efforts to improve affordability and quality of existing healthcare options.

Small Business Majority is a national small business advocacy organization with multiple offices throughout California, founded and run by small business owners to ensure America's entrepreneurs are a key part of a thriving and inclusive economy. We actively engage small business owners and policymakers in support of public policy solutions, and deliver information and resources to entrepreneurs that promote small business growth and drive a strong, sustainable job-creating economy. A key component of our work involves outreach and education to small business owners on a range of small business issues, including healthcare, retirement security, access to capital and more.

Over the past six years, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has provided healthcare to 24 million individuals nationwide, including more than [five million](#) Californians, who otherwise couldn't access coverage, many of whom work for small employers or are themselves business owners or self-employed individuals. California's health insurance marketplace, Covered California, requires participating health plans to express a commitment to containing healthcare costs, maintaining high quality and reducing health disparities. This is done partially through a requirement that these plans report data about how they work to reduce disparities in outcomes by race and ethnicity by reporting on certain quality indicators and outcomes. However, the plan-specific data is not available to the public, making it difficult for consumers to compare costs or outcomes across various providers and make informed decisions about their care.

AB 929 would address this by making this information available to the public. This could significantly improve accountability and quality in California's healthcare market, specifically benefitting many entrepreneurs and small business employees. Our [recent opinion polling](#) find high support among California small business owners for measures that would increase healthcare quality and improve outcomes. Indeed, an overwhelming majority of 91% agree there should be more transparency on pricing and quality to allow patients to make informed decisions about where they receive care.

California's small businesses are concerned about access to quality healthcare and want policymakers to address disparities in the quality of existing care. We urge you to support AB 929 to improve healthcare quality and accountability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Herbert".

Mark Herbert, California Director  
Small Business Majority