



March 20, 2019

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Legislation pending on Healthcare Data Disclosure (SB 343)

Dear Senator Pan,

As a representative of the 30 million small businesses in America and the more than 3.9 million in California, Small Business Majority writes today in support of SB 343, which would create healthcare data transparency parity across California's healthcare industry. Requiring uniform disclosure information about healthcare usage, costs and outcomes 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.

While millions of Californians have gained healthcare coverage in recent years, many still struggle to afford medical costs for copays and deductibles, making it difficult to actually use the coverage they have. And while the rate of annual increases in premiums and healthcare costs has slowed post-Affordable Care Act, there is a continued lack of transparency in healthcare costs that makes it difficult for consumers to understand how much they will spend on medical care or compare costs across providers. This problem is complicated by existing exemptions in reporting requirements for Kaiser Permanente, the state's largest healthcare provider. Without access to all healthcare providers' rates and financial information, California consumers and lawmakers cannot fully understand the drivers of healthcare costs in California.

Small business owners are concerned about rising healthcare costs, and support commonsense solutions to lower costs. Our [scientific opinion polling](#) shows that 91% of California's small business owners agree there should be more transparency on pricing and quality to allow patients to make informed decisions about where they receive care.

SB 343 would address the issues around lack of transparency by creating more uniform reporting standards for health plans and hospitals. This could significantly improve affordability for all Californians, including many entrepreneurs and small business employees. Requiring greater transparency from Kaiser would bring them in line with the rest of the healthcare industry, which will in turn help lower healthcare costs for California's business owners by ensuring employers have access to adequate information about rates and cost drivers behind California's healthcare.

We urge you to support SB 343 to further promote transparency and affordability in California's healthcare marketplaces.

Sincerely,

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

Mark Herbert, California Director
Small Business Majority