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(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Today, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD, Executive Director of the California Access Coalition issued the following statement in response to the Assembly Appropriations Committee holding SB 873 by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena):

"We are extremely disappointed that the Assembly Appropriations Committee held SB 873 on suspense. Despite the hard evidence, information about successful implementation in another state, and the support of more than 50 patient advocacy organizations, we were unable to overcome inaccurate claims by health insurance plans and pharmacy benefit managers.

"This outcome illustrates that good policy can be stopped by politics and underscores the urgent need for reforming California's prescription drug rebate system. No longer can patients be at the mercy of soaring medication costs. Failing to pass this bill only perpetuates existing challenges and puts corporate profits above the needs of patients.

"Now, more than ever, we must continue our efforts to ensure patients always come before profits!"

About California Access Coalition

The California Access Coalition (CAC) is a network of local and state behavioral health organizations, patient advocacy groups, and pharmaceutical companies that advocate to eliminate barriers that keep Californians from accessing medication and behavioral health treatment. Follow CAC on <u>Twitter</u> and learn more by visiting <u>www.californiaaccesscoalition.org</u>.