



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
April 19, 2023

**CONTACT:** Brooke Witzelberger  
[brooke@perrycom.com](mailto:brooke@perrycom.com)  
(916) 658-0144

**(SACRAMENTO, CA)** – Today, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD, Executive Director of the California Access Coalition issued the following statement in response to [Senate Bill 873](#) (Bradford) passing out of Senate Health Committee:

“We applaud the members of Senate Health Committee for standing up for patients by supporting SB 873, and thank our co-sponsors, the [Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition](#) and [Patient Pocket Protector Coalition](#), for their tireless advocacy and compelling testimony in today’s committee hearing. This bill is a much-needed solution to the high costs patients face at the pharmacy counter, which is why nearly 50 organizations are in support. By lowering out-of-pocket costs at the point-of-sale, SB 873 would ensure that patients can better afford their medicines and therefore improve adherence rates and clinical outcomes.

“While health plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) continue to claim that rebates help keep premiums low for patients, there is no way to know for certain considering there is no transparency within the rebate system. What we do know is that rebates allow health plans to save billions of dollars and instead of using those funds toward improving care, they end up cost-shifting through higher out-of-pocket costs for patients, particularly for those on high-deductible health plans.

“What many don’t realize is that the amount patients pay for their prescriptions is based upon the list price of the medication, not the negotiated price that health plans paid. By implementing rebate reform, [which some national PBMs have already done](#), California can expand upon prior legislation to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients within the deductible period and reduce co-insurance costs. Research has shown that passing rebates through to patients will not drastically increase premiums, at most 1% while patients could save up to \$800 each year. And, analysis from the California Health Benefits Review Program of a similar piece of legislation found that while premiums would increase 0.3%, more than 800,000 patients would save nearly \$71,000,000 annually.

“SB 873 by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) will reform California’s broken rebate system to ensure patients benefit, not health insurance companies and pharmacy middlemen.”

The bill now moves on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and awaits a hearing date.

---

***About California Access Coalition***

***Patients Before Profits*** is a campaign by the California Access Coalition (CAC). 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 [Twitter](#) and learn more by visiting [www.californiaaccesscoalition.org](http://www.californiaaccesscoalition.org).