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CONTACT: Brooke Witzelberger
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 the Senate Appropriations Committee:

“We applaud Chair Anthony Portantino (D-Burbank) and members of the Senate Appropriations 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 steadfast commitment to putting patients over profits.

“By lowering out-of-pocket costs at the pharmacy counter, SB 873 would ensure that patients can better afford their medicines and therefore improve adherence rates and clinical outcomes. It’s therefore no surprise more than 50 patient advocacy and community-based organizations are in support of the measure and want to see it signed by the Governor.

“Despite claims by the opposition, this bill could narrowly increase premiums by 0.3% while saving patients more than \$71 million annually. We look forward to working with our dedicated author, Senator Bradford (D-Gardena), and the Assembly to reform California’s broken rebate system to ensure patients receive the benefit of rebates.”

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.