

ABx1-1 Passage (1/14/2008)

Clinic Talking Points ***A Call For Senate Action***

- California's community clinics and health centers strongly urge you, as a member of the Senate Health Committee and a leader on health care issues, to support and pass ABx1-1.
- ABx1-1 represents the first real opportunity in California's history to reform our broken health care system, and so California's community clinics ask that you allow this historic piece of legislation to go before the voters in November 2008.
- ABx1-1 expands health coverage to millions of uninsured Californians in deep need of care, and brings the state one step closer making health care a right, and not just a privilege for the few who can afford it.
- Unlike its predecessors, ABx1-1 addresses the key issues of access for the millions of Californians in need of a medical home and contains intent language to augment the Expanded Access to Primary Care (EAPC) program by providing an additional \$140 million in funding - which will be put up for voter approval in this year's health care financing ballot initiative.
- ABx1-1 strengthens the safety net and gives community clinics the resources they need to provide more care to more Californians in need.
- ABx1-1 also proposes self-sustaining, self-financing mechanisms that utilize alternative revenue sources (e.g., tobacco tax, hospital fee...etc.) as its funding stream, thereby mitigating the costs to the state – crucial provisions given the California's projected \$14 billion budget deficit.
- At a time when Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed over a billion dollars in cuts to the state's critical health care programs, ABx1-1 gives California the tremendous opportunity re-invest millions of dollars back into California's health system.
- Community clinics understand that ABx1-1 is not perfect, as no piece of legislation is ever completely successful in addressing every concern an issue may have – and this is particularly true when trying to tackle an issue as complex as health care reform.
- However clinics also understand that there was a time in the inception of every idea and every great program (Medicare, Social Security...etc.) when it was easier to point out its deficiencies than its triumphs.
- ABx1-1 brings California closer than it has ever been to passable comprehensive health reform.
- As the cornerstone of California's safety net and partners within the health care community, we hope that our Senate leaders will not let this monumental opportunity pass.
- The time is now to reform California's broken health care system.
- We urge your immediate action on ABx1-1.