



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

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April 7, 2015

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, OD
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AMA Support for Senate Bill 137

Dear Senator Hernandez:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I write in support of Senate Bill (S.B.) 137, legislation to improve the accuracy, transparency, and usability of provider directories.

Inaccurate and incomplete provider directories are a problem in California and across the country. Too often, consumers depend on erroneous or incomplete information to purchase health insurance coverage, only to find out that their providers are not in their networks or that the network will not meet their needs when it is too late.

The transparency requirements contained in S.B. 137 would go a long way toward helping patients make informed decisions about their health care. Allowing the public, and not just members, to access all the information in the directory as well as requiring insurers to differentiate between the networks ascribed to individual products are just two key components of improved transparency under your legislation.

We join our colleagues at the California Medical Association in appreciation of your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you toward enactment. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Carroll, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at emily.carroll@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4967.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: California Medical Association