



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Los Angeles and California Consumers Need
Congress to Stabilize the Individual Health Insurance Market**

(Los Angeles, CA) –

The Los Angeles Association of Health Underwriters is dismayed by the lack of inclusion of individual health market stabilization measures in the Omnibus Spending Package signed today by President Trump. This represents a major missed opportunity to issue important healthcare fix legislation that earlier this month had bipartisan support for inclusion in the spending bill.

California and Los Angeles continue to embrace the gig work trend, and freelancers and employees of small businesses who don't offer health insurance will be very impacted by potential rate volatility next year. Rates for 2019 are in danger of spiking due to the elimination of the individual penalty, among other factors.

LAAHU President Bobbi Kaelin issued the following statement today:

"There was real promise that both parties would support market stability, that Los Angelinos might see lower premiums and lower federal spending next year as a result – a key element in a year when the individual penalty is being eliminated. These measures are needed right now, as California's insurance companies are preparing, filing their plans and rates for Covered California for 2019. This failure to act on behalf of consumers and taxpayers is disturbing and we are very concerned that if it comes at a later time, it may be too little, too late."

LAAHU urges Members of Congress to address these issues as a very high priority, as either standalone legislation or within another legislative vehicle, in the next month to truly represent constituents who rely on the individual medical market in California as their source of health insurance.

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To find a local agent for help, visit laahu.org. For more information, please call Dede Kennedy-Simington at 626.378.5656 or email dedek@benassisthealth.com.

The Los Angeles Association of Health Underwriters members are licensed health insurance agents. They provide reliable insurance advice, act as the consumer's advocate when dealing with carriers and provide essential services relating to the individual and group insurance coverage, and obligations throughout the year, post-enrollment.

Members also act as a trusted and effective marketing and distribution channel for health insurance information for all consumers and potential consumers of health care insurance coverage.