

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Legislative Briefing Showcases Physician Group Innovations**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**, During a policy briefing this week for new legislators co-hosted by Senator Ed Hernandez, O.D., and Assemblymember Richard Pan, M.D., the California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) illustrated the advances in quality patient care that are helping to make California ahead of the national curve in preparing for the implementation of federal healthcare reform.

“Our physician groups have shown impressive results to improve the quality of patient care while managing costs,” said Donald Crane, president and chief executive officer of the California Association of Physician Groups. “We heard today from the state’s legislative health policy leaders that their priorities are to find ways to deliver better care to more people while containing costs and better managing and coordinating resources and that’s exactly what our groups have shown can be done.”

“California’s policy leaders created incentives years ago for healthcare providers to coordinate their services for patients and we’re seeing it pay off in the physician group model that has enabled per capita healthcare costs and hospitalization rates to be much lower for our patients in California than the national average,” said Crane.

During the briefing, CAPG’s leadership described the significant investments physician groups are making in the use of technology to improve transparency and care innovations to help patients better understand and manage their treatment needs.

“The fact is, measuring the quality of the care we provide to patients is imperative to understanding what contributes to better outcomes and quality of life,” said Keith Wilson, M.D., chairman of CAPG’s board of directors and regional medical director of HealthCare Partners Medical Group in Costa Mesa. “We know of no other state that matches California in the level of integration among physicians, hospitals, and others in the care team, which allows us to focus on the health status of the patient instead of simply treating illness after it occurs.”

“I received a letter from a father who unknowingly moved out of a coordinated care health plan asking me what happened to the support and attention to treatment protocol his son was getting after a debilitating injury,” John Jenrette, M.D., chief executive officer and chief medical officer of Sharp Community Medical Group in San Diego shared with the audience. “It sometimes takes people losing the coordination of care to realize the value of it but fortunately we’re starting to see a move towards our model of delivery among more health coverage policies. Importantly, the alignment is occurring among policy makers, healthcare providers and the public to support a system that provides measurably better and more affordable care,” said Jenrette.

### **About CAPG**

The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) represents groups that employ or contract with nearly 60,000 California doctors and provide care to 15 million Californians. CAPG is committed to improving healthcare for Californians and supports a progressive and organized system of healthcare delivery which focuses on coordinated treatment plans and comprehensive coverage, including the most current preventive services and exams. This allows physicians to focus on illness prevention and proactive management of patients in order to maintain their optimum level of health.

[www.capg.org](http://www.capg.org).

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