


July 10, 2026

Welcome to America's Physician Groups' *California Update*. Each week APG reports the latest on health care happenings in the Golden State.

Here's what you'll find in this week's edition:

- [The Week](#) In Review
- APG Testifies Before OHCA [Advisory Committee On Progressive Enforcement Framework](#)
- APG Encourages Members To Attend July 28 [Medi-Cal Transformation Seminar](#)
- Attend APG's Inaugural [Women's Health Summit](#)
- APG California Policy & Advocacy [2026 Meeting Dates](#)
- APG California Advocacy Member [Resources](#)



The Week In Review

California health care policy continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. This week, APG participated in the Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) Advisory Board meeting to present testimony on the proposed enforcement regulations implementing the state's cost growth target, while the California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) prepares to host a July 28 Medi-Cal seminar in Burbank featuring Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) officials and other stakeholders to discuss the next phase of Medi-Cal transformation following enactment of H.R. 1. We also met with gubernatorial candidate Xavier Becerra as he continues to build on his lead heading into the November election. More on that at the end of this issue.

These events underscore an important reality: physician organizations have both an opportunity—and a responsibility—to help shape the future of California's health care delivery system. Whether the discussion concerns affordability regulation, Medi-Cal financing, the delegated model, or implementation of federal Medicaid reforms, policymakers are actively seeking stakeholder input as they develop the next generation of California health policy.

APG remains committed to ensuring that physician organizations have a strong and respected voice in these discussions. We encourage our members not only to stay informed through the *California Update*, but also to participate whenever possible in public meetings, stakeholder

forums, and policy discussions. The collective experience of California's physician organizations in delivering coordinated, value-based care is one of the state's greatest assets, and it is essential that this perspective continues to inform the decisions that will shape the future of our health care system.

This week's *California Update* highlights two important opportunities for engagement: APG's testimony before the OHCA Advisory Board regarding the proposed enforcement regulations and CAHP's upcoming Medi-Cal seminar, where members can hear directly from DHCS officials and other stakeholders and share their perspectives on the future of California's delegated model. Together, these developments reflect APG's ongoing commitment to ensuring that physician organizations remain at the center of California's health policy conversation.

Former Attorney General and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra met with APG staff this week in Sacramento to discuss his campaign for Governor and his emerging health care agenda for California. APG provided Mr. Becerra with an overview of our members' operations and the critical role physician organizations play in delivering coordinated, value-based care throughout California and nationally. Mr. Becerra emphasized that preserving and improving health care for Californians remains a central priority of his campaign and hinted at broader policy initiatives that would be unveiled during the first 100 days of his administration, should he be elected. He also expressed his interest in continuing a dialogue with APG as his campaign develops its health care platform.



APG Testifies Before OHCA Advisory Committee On Progressive Enforcement Framework

The Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) Advisory Committee met **on July 8** to continue its discussion of the proposed regulations implementing **SB 184's Progressive Enforcement Framework** for health care entities that exceed California's statewide health care cost growth target. During the meeting, OHCA staff presented an overview of the proposed enforcement process and sought Advisory Committee input on how Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs), penalties, and other enforcement tools should be applied as the regulations move toward formal adoption. Members may review the OHCA staff presentation [here](#).

On behalf of America's Physician Groups (APG), Executive Vice President Bill Barcellona provided public testimony during the **July 8** meeting in follow-up to APG's June 25 comment letter addressing the draft

enforcement regulations. APG's written comments are available [here](#). A copy of APG's oral testimony presented to the Advisory Committee is also available [here](#).

APG's testimony focused on a central concern with the proposed enforcement framework: while SB 184 recognized value-based payment as one of California's principal affordability strategies, the draft regulations currently treat physician organizations that have voluntarily assumed advanced financial accountability for cost and quality much the same as organizations that continue to operate primarily under fee-for-service reimbursement. APG emphasized that California's delegated physician organizations have invested for decades in population health management, utilization management, care coordination, quality improvement infrastructure, and Total Cost of Care measurement, the very capabilities OHCA seeks to encourage throughout the health care system.

Unlike Total Cost of Care methodologies, which evaluate an organization's performance on the expenditures it can influence, OHCA's Total Health Care Expenditures (THCE) methodology attributes spending that physician organizations often cannot control, including hospital reimbursement rates, pharmaceutical costs, and certain behavioral health expenditures. As a result, physician organizations with strong performance under value-based payment arrangements could nevertheless become subject to enforcement because of spending decisions made by other participants in the health care system.

Accordingly, APG urged OHCA to recognize participation in bona fide value-based payment arrangements as a mitigating factor when determining whether a Performance Improvement Plan or other enforcement action is appropriate. Organizations that already accept meaningful prospective financial accountability through capitated and delegated payment arrangements should receive credit for implementing one of the Legislature's intended affordability strategies rather than being evaluated under a framework that is largely payment-model neutral.

The July 8 discussion represents another important step in OHCA's development of its statewide affordability oversight program. APG will continue engaging with OHCA leadership, staff, and policymakers as the regulations advance through the formal rulemaking process. The Association remains committed to ensuring that California's physician organizations receive appropriate recognition for the longstanding role they have played in advancing value-based care, improving quality, and

controlling health care costs through delegated and capitated payment models.

APG members who wish to provide their own comments to OHCA regarding the proposed Progressive Enforcement regulations may do so by emailing OHCA at ohca@hcai.ca.gov. APG also encourages members to share their comments with the Association so that we may continue coordinating our advocacy as the regulations move toward adoption.



APG Encourages Members To Attend July 28 Medi-Cal Transformation Seminar

California's Medi-Cal program is entering one of the most consequential periods in its history. In response to sweeping federal changes enacted through H.R. 1, the California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) will host a seminar, "**Navigating the Next Phase of Medi-Cal Transformation**," on **Tuesday, July 28**, from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport. The program will bring together senior officials from the Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal managed care plans, providers, and other health care leaders to discuss the future direction of California's Medicaid program.

APG encourages members, particularly physician organizations, IPAs, MSOs, and other delegated entities, to consider attending this important program. The seminar will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from DHCS leadership regarding the State's response to H.R. 1, the future of CalAIM, and the operational and financing challenges facing Medi-Cal managed care over the coming years.

The meeting also provides an important opportunity for APG members to engage directly with state officials regarding the continuing role of California's delegated care model. As policymakers consider how best to implement federal reforms while preserving access to care, physician organizations should ensure that their experience delivering coordinated, value-based care is part of the discussion. APG believes the delegated model remains one of California's greatest strengths and will continue advocating for policies that recognize the critical role physician organizations play in improving quality, managing costs, and coordinating care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Members interested in attending can review the [seminar announcement](#) and [registration](#) information. APG looks forward to continuing these conversations with DHCS and other stakeholders as California develops its next generation of Medi-Cal policy.



Attend APG's Innaugural Women's Health Summit

[APG's inaugural Women's Health Summit on July 23](#) is just around the corner.

APG's Women's Health Summit, exclusively for APG members, will be held on Thursday, July 23, at UCLA Health in Los Angeles. The main program runs from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Space is limited, so [register now](#) to secure your spot.

Noted scholar and researcher [Cat Bohannon, PhD](#), will deliver the opening keynote, **Understanding the Big Background Behind Women's Health**, drawing on her best-selling book *Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution*. Dr. Bohannon will also sign copies of her book beginning at 8:00 AM.

The Summit also features these sessions:

- Heart Disease Across a Woman's Lifespan
- Key Issues in Managing Perimenopause and Menopause
- Women's Use of GLP-1 Drugs for Weight Management and Beyond
- A New Name for PCOS: Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome
- Autoimmune Diseases in Women
- Mood and Anxiety Across the Female Life Cycle

Visit the [APG Women's Health Summit page](#) for full speaker information and event details. View the full agenda [here](#).

For more information or to ask about sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Lura Hawkins](#).



2026 APG California Policy & Advocacy Meeting Dates

Members, please mark your calendars for APG's California Policy Forum and California Medi-Cal Forum meetings. You can download APG's 2026 events calendar [here](#).

California Policy Forum

2:00 - 3:00 pm

- December 3

California Medi- Cal Forum

4:00 - 5:00 pm

- August 11

- October 13
- November 10
- December 8



APG California Advocacy Member Resources

- [2025 Legislative Implementation Guide](#)
- **Tracked Health Care Bills 2025-26:** bills we're following in the California State Legislature
- November 2025 IHA Provider Directory webinar [recording](#)
- **Office of Health Care Affordability** [regulations](#) and [explanatory slide deck](#)
- **DMHC Quality and Equity Reporting** program [All Plan Letter](#)

For more news and resources, please visit APG's [website](#) or contact a member of APG's California advocacy team.

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