



205 S. Broadway, Suite 402
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.482.8200
www.cfpa.net

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2347 (Wood) – Covered CA Affordability – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

California Food Policy Advocates supports your bill, AB 2347 (Wood), which will improve access and lower costs for Covered California enrollees. While some Californians received new affordability assistance in last year's state budget, many Californians still face premiums that are a significant barrier for both enrollment and utilization of health insurance.

AB 2347 will provide new state subsidies to those making \$17,000 to \$24,000 per year who were not helped by the 2019 affordability assistance package. The bill will also provide additional assistance to those earning \$24,000 to \$75,000 who received some state subsidies for premiums in last year's package, but are still paying premiums at a high percent of their income.

AB 2347 will also provide first-of-its kind cost sharing subsidies to people making \$24,000 to \$49,000 per year, who currently face deductibles up to \$7,000. These enrollees would have zero deductibles, as cost sharing reduction subsidies will be equal to Gold tier plans.

California Food Policy Advocates (CFPA) is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food. We know that poverty, health, and nutrition are inextricably linked. Financial insecurity causes food insecurity, which combined with the stress of struggling to make ends meet, results in chronic disease. The cost of treating chronic disease puts further strain on limited resources—perpetuating cycles of food insecurity and poor health. For that reason, CFPA supports policies like AB 2347, which aim to lower health care costs for Californians.

In our high cost-of-living state, we must do more to ensure our residents can balance health care costs alongside food, housing, and other expenses. For these reasons, California Food Policy Advocates thanks you for your leadership in authoring AB 2347 (Wood).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabrielle Tilley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the last word.

Gabrielle Tilley, Policy Advocate
cc: Members, Assembly Health Committee