

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Dave Jones Insurance Commissioner

We act to ensure vibrant markets where insurers keep their promises and the health and economic security of individuals, families and businesses are protected.



Dear Friends:

I am writing to request your help in getting Assembly Bill 2152 signed into law!

AB 2152 (Eng) would strengthen consumer protections in California's regulation of health insurance by **requiring notice to policyholders if the contract between their medical provider group or hospital and their insurer is set to terminate**. The bill also requires that the Department of Insurance be notified prior to the contract termination, so that the Department can verify if the health insurer will continue to have an adequate network of medical providers in that geographic region to serve their insureds.

As the sponsor of the bill, I believe that these important consumer protections will help prevent policyholders from unknowingly seeking medical care from a provider who may no longer be in their network. This information is important because patients should know whether they will be subject to higher, out-of-network costs before receiving medical treatment.

In December 2011, the contract between Blue Shield and UCLA Medical Center was set to terminate. When the Department of Insurance learned of the imminent termination of the provider contract, the Department requested that Blue Shield notify affected policyholders prior to the termination, so that none of them would seek out-of-network care without knowing the cost implications of doing so. Blue Shield refused to send out notices to policyholders in advance of the contract termination and refused to cover the difference in the cost for those policyholders who went to their appointments in early January without having been noticed by the insurer that their provider was now out-of-network, except for those policyholders that were covered by the "continuity of care" law. This recent example demonstrates the undeniable need for this legislation.

AB 2152 is currently on the Governor's desk and we need your help to get this important consumer protection measure signed into law! **Please contact the Governor today and ask him to sign AB 2152.** [Email the Governor](#), or contact him via:

Mail: Governor Jerry Brown, c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento CA 95814

Phone: (916) 445-2841

Fax: (916) 558-3160

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

DAVE JONES
Insurance Commissioner