FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 14, 2026

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California Chronic Care Coalition Releases Statement on Sponsored Legislation

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Today, Liz Helms, President and CEO of the California Chronic Care Coalition (CCCC), issued the following statement:

"On behalf of the 30 + organizations and tens of millions of patients the California Chronic Care Coalition represent, we are extremely disappointed that our co-sponsored legislation, SB 363 (Wiener), was held in Assembly Appropriations. The bill aimed to hold health plans accountable for baseless coverage denials and provide critical transparency into why denial rates are on the rise. Most importantly, the bill would have provided California the ability to impose fines on insurers who wrongfully deny essential care.

"30 years ago, I suffered a traumatic injury that left me in constant pain; in seeking care, my insurance company denied me at every turn. I was forced into bankruptcy and lost my family home. I didn't know it at the time, but this kind of story is unfortunately far too common. While we've made progress since then, I regularly hear from patients who feel the health care system has failed them. Health insurers continue to deny and delay and – despite the ability for patients to appeal – it feels like there is no recourse.

"SB 363 was our recourse. The California Department of Managed Health Care overturns about 73% of denials, but without proper data and tracking, it is nearly impossible to hold health insurers to account.

"Although SB 363 won't move forward this year, we won't stop fighting to ensure health insurance companies are held accountable for the havoc they wreak by not providing the essential care that patients need, deserve, and are entitled to."

Other co-sponsored legislation SB 535 (Richardson), and CCCC supported patient-centered legislation, SB 1309 (Rubio), – bills were also held in Assembly Appropriations.

About California Chronic Care Coalition

The California Chronic Care Coalition (CCCC) is a unique alliance of more than 30 leading

consumer health organizations and provider groups that promote the collaborative work of policy makers, industry leaders, providers, and consumers to improve the health of Californians with chronic conditions. We envision a system of care that is accessible, affordable, and of a high-quality that emphasizes prevention, coordinated care, and the patient's wellness and longevity. Learn more by visiting www.CaliforniaChronicCare.org.