



[RunawayRx](#), a project of the California Association of Health Plans, highlights noteworthy articles and information on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing.

This afternoon, the California Assembly Health Committee will be hearing Sen. Ed Hernandez's drug price transparency legislation, SB 1010. The [San Jose Mercury News](#) featured an opinion editorial from Dr. Awsare, highlighting the need for SB 1010. Dr. Awsare is joined by the sixty-five plus organizations throughout California that are urging the Assembly Health Committee to pass SB 1010.

Awsare: California drug pricing transparency is necessary legislation

Dr. Sameer V. Awsare | June 28, 2016

The Mercury News
MercuryNews.com

"Rarely does a single issue ricochet unequivocally across society — impacting everyone regardless of age, gender, or economic status. No matter how healthy or sick you are, skyrocketing prices on prescription drugs should be a grave concern. Drug prices are rising at a fast and furious pace. We don't know why, and drug companies do not want to tell us.

"As the bills add up, physicians, patient and consumer advocates, businesses, cities, counties, labor unions, health care leaders and many more are calling on the California legislature to pass Senate Bill 1010 (Hernandez). This legislation will shed some light on drug pricing and help get us off this unsustainable path. This bill does not impose price controls on prescription drugs.

"The need for transparency and solutions is urgent. While transparency is becoming the norm across every other part of the health care system, it seems that pharmaceutical companies can charge whatever they feel like and no one seems to be able to pinpoint why...

"There are simply too many Californians on the hook for us to stand idly by as pharmaceutical companies raise prices with little rhyme or reason. Now is the time to advance SB 1010 to bring drug pricing out of the dark."

"The pharmaceutical industry has made claims that sharing basic information about drug prices will harm patients. As a physician, I can tell you that a far greater health risk is not getting treatment in the first place because prescription drugs are priced upwards of \$100,000."

Sameer V. Awsare, MD, FACP, practices Internal Medicine at The Permanente Medical Group in Campbell and is a former president of the Santa Clara County Medical Association. He wrote this for the Mercury News.

Read more at http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_30067023/awsare-california-drug-pricing-transparency-is-necessary-legislation

The California Association of Health Plans' RunawayRx project sheds light on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing and how it impacts health care affordability, encouraging a route toward sustainable pricing. For more information, please visit www.RunawayRx.org or follow us on Twitter at [@Runaway_Rx](https://twitter.com/Runaway_Rx).