



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

CAHP president and CEO Charles Bacchi's opinion piece in today's [Sacramento Bee](#) speaks out against the pharmaceutical industry's continued posturing to blame everyone but themselves for egregious price hikes on decades-old lifesaving medications such as the EpiPen. Yet they alone set the prices while consumers, taxpayers and employers foot the bill with no explanation about what goes into these prices.

Drug companies pass the buck on price spikes

THE SACRAMENTO BEE 

By Charles Bacchi | September 6, 2016

"Each time a drug company jacks up the price for an important or even life-saving treatment, there is public outcry. A flurry of news stories hit the papers, lawmakers and candidates denounce the practice and patients and parents object. Each time, the culprit responds by turning a blind eye to the public's objections and pretending there is no problem.

"Instead of acknowledging that they set the prices, the pharmaceutical industry attempts to shift the conversation and blame other parties...

"New and better drugs are not the problem.

The problem is pricing that appears to be detached from reality...

"Drug manufacturers can clear up any misunderstanding by providing clear and compelling facts and data to back up their claims instead of smoke screens. Unfortunately they won't do so voluntarily, and they resist efforts by lawmakers to bring transparency to their pricing."

"Let's also not forget that the state of California pays the costs of these drugs for 13 million Medi-Cal recipients who don't pay any co-pays or deductibles. State and local governments, school districts and pension plans such as CalPERS are grappling with the burden these price hikes are putting on their taxpayer-supported budgets."

Read More at: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article99739472.html>.

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/RunawayRx).