



SB 17: A Call for Transparency

With the Senate's passage of SB 17 (Hernandez) yesterday afternoon, major drug price transparency legislation that will bring pharma's questionable pricing tactics out of the dark is headed to the Governor's desk for signage into law. Across the state, major news outlets are taking notice:

The Mercury News: [California drug pricing bill heads to Gov. Brown](#)

"The nation's most comprehensive legislation aimed at shining a light on prescription drug prices now heads to California Gov. Jerry Brown's desk, after the state Senate on Wednesday approved Senate Bill 17 on a 31 to 8 vote."

Los Angeles Times: [Bill to shed more light on prescription drug prices heads to Gov. Jerry Brown's desk](#)

"Powered by increasing scrutiny of costly prescription drugs, a measure that would require sweeping new disclosure on how medicines are priced cleared its final legislative hurdle Wednesday."

KPCC: [Major drug transparency bill moves to governor's desk](#)

"The California Senate Wednesday gave final approval to a landmark bill that would require drug makers to report on and justify certain price increases."

Sacramento Bee: [Drug pricing bill clears last hurdle in California Legislature](#)

"The passage of Senate Bill 17, introduced by Sen. Ed Hernandez, D-Azusa, marks a rare defeat for drug makers, who spent millions of dollars to successfully beat back similar legislation and a ballot measure in California last year."

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If signed into law, this much-needed transparency bill will serve as a model for state governments across the country as they search for viable solutions to pharma's price-gouging tactics, highlighted by Sen. Hernandez, the bill's author:

"Although this state legislation was passed in California, it's a monumental achievement for the entire nation. If signed into law, SB 17 will set national health care policy, having impact for consumers and providers in other states."

Charles Bacchi, who leads the California Association of Health Plans, is optimistic about the effects the legislation will have on checking the continually rising prices of prescription drugs:

"SB 17's passage marks a critical milestone in the fight for long-term health care affordability."

"For too long, the pharmaceutical industry has operated in the dark, playing by their own rules while health plans, providers, hospitals and others work together to address the factors driving up costs - SB 17 will help change that by bringing pharma in line with the rest of the health care industry and we're proud to stand with leaders across California in support of this crucial legislation."

To stay up to date on the latest developments in prescription drug pricing, visit runawayrx.org or follow RunawayRx on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).