

January 26, 2021

House Industry, Business and Labor <u>HB 1147</u>
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CHAIRMAN LEFOR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Sara Orrange. I am a regional director of state affairs for America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the national association whose members provide insurance coverage for health care and related services. We respectfully oppose HB 1147 concerning mandated insurance coverage for fertility treatments.

Health insurance plans have taken critical steps to increase access to innovative and high-quality health care products and implement cost control mechanisms that allow individuals and employers to obtain and provide coverage in the private market. The health insurance mandate in HB 1147 threatens the efforts of all health care stakeholders to provide consumers with meaningful health care choices and affordable coverage options.

Consumers and employers benefit from a robust health insurance marketplace offering competition and choice.

The private market is best situated to balance the cost and efficacy of medical treatments and services. Large employers, unions, small businesses, and consumers want choices to find the right health plan – at the right price – that best fits their needs. Benefit mandates eliminate the ability of health insurers and HMOs to develop innovative and competitive benefit packages and force employers and individuals to purchase a prescribed set of benefits driven by mandates rather than consumer choice.

Health benefit mandates stifle the use of innovative, evidence-based medicine.

Health insurance plans develop competitively priced, high-quality products that balance access to comprehensive benefits and services with

medical necessity and evidence-based principles regarding safety, effectiveness, and cost. Enacting benefit mandates prevents the benefits package from adapting to evolving medical literature and clinical guidelines to provide the most up-to-date and cost-effective product to consumers.

Certain procedures or medical devices may become obsolete, or even harmful to patients, through newer medical advances or greater bodies of knowledge. The adoption of benefit mandates that do not promote evidence-based medicine may lead to lower-quality care, over- or misutilization of services, and higher costs for treatments that may be ineffective or less safe than other benefits and services.

For these reasons, we oppose HB 1147. If you have any questions about our concerns please to contact me at sorange@ahip.org or (703) 887-5285.

Thank you for your time and consideration.