

Dear Assemblymember/Senator

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong opposition to AB 3087, which replaces commercial markets with a politically appointed commission whose responsibility would be to annually determine the base amounts that health care entities are required to accept as full payment for health care services.

Supporters of the legislation claim the California Health Care Cost, Quality, and Equity Commission would function as an “independent agency” that would place patients before profits. In fact, the Commission would operate free from citizen scrutiny and public accountability. Furthermore, the bill simply steps over the chronic shortfalls in Medicare payments for many health care services.

Unfortunately, the Commission would act as a financial oversight board with little focus on quality care and patient safety. Addressing health care costs through price fixing and, consequently care rationing, is not the answer. Our organizations are committed to value-based payment and delivery designs that focus on health care quality and outcomes and encourage the wise use of healthcare resources. Instead of providing out-of-pocket spending relief to consumers, the end result, should this legislation reach enactment, will be poorer access to health care as providers leave California or the practice of medicine entirely.

We join our California members and chapters in opposing AB 3087.

Should you have questions, please contact Frank Ryan of the American College of Cardiology at [202-375-6409](tel:202-375-6409).

Sincerely,

Ambulatory Surgery Center Association
American Academy Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American College of Cardiology
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Urological Association
Association of Black Cardiologists
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
The Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography
Urgent Care Association