



August 30, 2007

To Members of the California State Legislature:

On behalf of California Arts Advocates, and with all of California's artists and arts workers in mind, I am writing to express strong support for health care reform that can provide affordable and quality healthcare for all Californians.

Many of California's tens of thousands of artists and arts workers are either self-employed, have multiple employers, work as contracted employees or are engaged in work that is episodic and seasonal. Many are not covered by traditional employer-funded programs, even when they are members of collective bargaining organizations, such as Actors Equity and the American Federation of Musicians. Artists and arts workers not associated with an industry union are even less likely than their union counterparts to hold health insurance.

Arts organizations that employ artists and arts workers are small businesses, nonprofit organizations always struggling, like their for-profit counterparts, to remain in the black while racing to keep up with the sky-rocketing costs of health coverage. Arts employers are sympathetic to the health care needs of their employees but cannot meet the ever-spiraling increases of insurance premiums.

At California Arts Advocates, it is our firm desire to see real health care reform passed this year. The leaders of the Legislature and the Governor have expressed their commitment to this crucial reform. The moment is right to bring access to affordable and comprehensive health care to every Californian.

California Arts Advocates is the statewide advocacy organization for all of California's artists and arts organizations. It is our conviction that the arts are crucial to fostering an innovative and robust economy, and to building a tolerant and truly prosperous democratic society.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Erickson", written over a horizontal line.

Brad Erickson
President, California Arts Advocates
Executive Director, Theatre Bay Area

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