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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Health Bill Aims to End Unethical Treatment of Patients
Patients, Physicians Urge Passage of AB 1826

Sacramento – Assembly Bill 1826, authored by Assemblymember Jared Huffman, will be heard by the Assembly Health Committee on April 20th. The Los Angeles based pain nonprofit, For Grace, is the sponsor of AB 1826. Their spokesperson, Cynthia Toussaint, will give testimony in support of the Bill, alongside Dr. Scott Fishman (Director, Pain Management, UC Davis.) The bill, if signed, will abolish the unethical prescription policy utilized by health insurance companies to save money at the expense of pain patients.

WHAT: Assembly Health Committee Hearing on AB 1826

WHEN: Tuesday, April 20th, 1 pm

**WHERE: California State Capitol
Room 1190 (Tentative) Room 126 (Alternate)**

WHO: Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) – Bill Author

**Cynthia Toussaint – Spokesperson and Founder, For Grace and
pain patient – Bill Sponsor**

Dr. Scott Fishman, Director, Pain Management, UC Davis

Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) authored the Bill which requires health insurers to report a little known practice called Step Therapy or “fail first.” Step therapy is used by many health plans to help control health care costs and requires patients to try various medications and/or treatments before having access to the one originally prescribed by their doctor. Patients are forced to remain suffering and jump through bureaucratic hoops rather than having access to proper treatment. AB 1826 is a first step toward prohibiting health care plans or health care insurers from forcing pain patients to experiment with a different medication or treatment than the one prescribed by their physician, resulting in lower health care costs for patients.

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