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BREAKING NEWS – HEALTH CARE VOTE

What a difference a couple of days can make!! The Speaker was quoted late Saturday stating that he would schedule a vote today, on the healthcare proposal he has negotiated with the Governor. The 245 page amended bill was available on Saturday; however there were still changes being made on Saturday. These amendments are still not yet formally in the system. I expect additional amendments will be forthcoming tomorrow.

The Assembly Appropriations Committee convened late this morning to hear and pass AB 1X (Nunez). This was on a partisan vote – Dems for the bill, Reps against. Some of those who spoke against the bill were representatives of the California Nurses Association, other labor groups, some health plans and insurers and business groups. For the bill were AARP, SEIU, Kaiser Permanente, Cancer Society, Health Net, and several others.

This afternoon the bill was heard on the Assembly Floor. After a number of hours of caucus meetings, the members assembled on the Floor. A couple of hours of debate took place and the voting began. 45 Democrats voted for the bill, Republicans against. The bill passed then from the Assembly to the Senate.

A press conference is scheduled for 4:30 this afternoon on the steps of the Capitol. A number of stakeholders in support are expected.

It is unclear at this time, what, if any action, the Senate will take on the bill. Senate Pro-Tem Perata has publically stated that with the \$14 Billion deficit to deal with, healthcare reform may not be taken up this session. However, in politics what is said one day may change the next. As of this writing, a hearing has not yet been scheduled in the Senate. Stay tuned – never a dull moment.