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**STATEMENT ON CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE REFORM VOTE, FROM
BAY AREA COUNCIL**

SAN FRANCISCO, January 28, 2008 – Today, the Bay Area Council released the following statement attributable to Jim Wunderman, President and CEO of the Bay Area Council:

“Despite today’s vote, the issue of universal health coverage is not dead. Nor is the fight. Millions of lower- and middle-class Californians risk their financial and literal lives with no coverage; governments and businesses are breaking under the crushing weight of escalating healthcare costs; and the situation worsens exponentially each year. The Bay Area Council wishes to commend Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and his staff for their countless hours of work on the issue, partisan-free leadership and rock-solid dedication to negotiation and compromise. We also wish to thank all of the other stakeholders who lent their time, resources and clout to the effort. We urge leaders in both California and the federal level to continue discussions and seek a solution to one of the most pressing problems of our time.

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Bay Area Council

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) is business-backed public policy organization for more than 275 of the largest Bay Area employers. Led by its CEO members, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for hundreds of major employers throughout the Bay Area region who employ more than 500,000 workers, or 1 of every six private sector employees in the Bay Area.