



Letters: As a doctor, I see up close why we need AB1400's single-payer health coverage

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Assembly Member Ash Kalra of San Jose introduced AB1400, which would create a single-payer health care system in California.

In my 37 years as a surgeon on the Peninsula, I have become ever more frustrated by our private health insurance system. It is designed for profit, not for patient well-being. Access to care is increasingly unequal, and insurance coverage does not equate with access.

My medical group refuses to accept MediCal patients, no longer accepts new primary care Medicare patients and does not accept most Affordable Care Act plans. What good is insurance if you can't find a doctor who will accept it? MediCal expansion will not go far beyond the county hospital systems.

Physician opposition to universal coverage is firmly grounded in concerns over personal income. But as the current system becomes increasingly arcane, even most of my colleagues in larger medical groups would welcome universal coverage with open arms, grateful to be caring for patients without regard to the wallet biopsy demanded by their employers.

Concerns about costs are obviously misguided as we currently waste billions on the predatory and mismanaged insurance industry.

I implore the California Legislature and the governor to support universal coverage proposed by AB1400.

John Rosenman, San Mateo