



Health Care for All - California

SINGLE-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Dear Single Payer / Medicare for All Supporters,

This is to let everyone know that the single payer bill we are supporting in the Assembly, AB 1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (CalCare), has been put on hold.

The main author, Assembly member Ash Kalra of San Jose, and the bill's sponsor, the California Nurses Association, expect the bill to be brought up again later in the 2021-22 legislative session. Here is his [statement](#). CNA organizer Phil Kim estimated it will be "back on the table" within eight months.

While the delay is disappointing, it provides us with precious time that we can use to our advantage. We need to work as hard as we can in the coming months to get the support we'll need for when the bill is ready. (See more on this below.)

It is also a time when we can pressure the governor to come out strongly for single payer and work with the Biden administration, specifically with Xavier Becerra in Health and Human Services, to prepare for federal waivers to fund single payer in California.

The reason given today for the AB 1400 delay was to provide more time to consider how the system called for in the AB 1400 policy bill would be financed.

On Twitter this morning, Kalra wrote: "My commitment to the (bill) is only strengthened by the decision to continue working on financing until we have all of the policy and fiscal questions answered." And, "I expect (the bill) to get a fair hearing and ultimately be approved."

An analysis of the bill that the legislature had requested from a Berkeley-based review board was due out in the middle of this week. So far, there has been no publicity about its scope or conclusions. Advocates were expecting to see the bill head to the Assembly Health Committee after the report came out. Instead, it has been put on hold from inside the legislature.

AB 1400 was introduced as a policy bill, with a financing bill to be introduced after the policy bill passed. This has been the approach of previous single payer bills. A financing bill would require a two-thirds vote; a policy bill requires a simple majority.

A solid financing proposal related to the previous single payer bill, SB 562, was issued in the summer of 2017 after the bill passed the Senate. However, instead of the bill advancing to the Assembly, with or without the financing, it was tabled by Speaker Anthony Rendon, who opted instead to form a committee to discuss healthcare problems in the state and different ways to approach delivering care.

We are facing a political problem, not one of policy. We know the policy is sound and that we can afford it. We are missing political leadership and we are missing a large, broad-based, well-informed public activated to demand the change we need.

In the coming months, we need to strengthen our outreach so we'll have greater support when this bill comes back. We need to focus on gathering as many endorsements from [city councils and other government bodies](#) and [community organizations](#) as possible. And we really need to reach out to constituents in key districts to lobby their legislators. (See CalCare campaign link in last paragraph.)

A note on financing: The cost-effectiveness of a single payer system is indisputable. In 2020, a review of 22 studies of single payer financing plans by researchers at three UC campuses was published in [PLOS Medicine](#). Read all about it! And in 2017, the report by the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, produced a sound proposal for funding our last bill, SB 562. [Here](#) is the report, with a good introduction if that's as far as you get.

Thank you to all stalwart single payer advocates! The CalCare campaign is expected to continue with outreach to critical districts. Please participate! Use this [link](#) for updates and ways to engage. And go regularly to the "News" feature on the Health Care for All [website](#) and join our social media pages (buttons below) for updates, events, and useful information.

Sincerely,

Ellen Karel, Chair
Health Care for All - California

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Membership

We can't do this without your support! Your membership provides vital funding for ongoing outreach to voters and public officials. Robust membership also demonstrates the depth of support for single-payer universal healthcare. You can either [join online](#) or [print a membership form](#) to mail in with a check.

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