



Health Care for All - California

SINGLE-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Dear Avid Single Payer Supporters,

(Real) BREAKING NEWS!

Yesterday, Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), prominent author of [AB 1400](#), the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act, broke **two big pieces of news** during a live-streamed Facebook press conference.

Watch the [video](#) of the press conference. Read the [press release](#).

Highlights...

1. First Hearing Scheduled Next Week for AB 1400

- **The Assembly Health Committee will hold a hearing on AB 1400 on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 1:30 p.m.** Tune in to [live audio](#) of the hearing.
- The bill was introduced last year at the beginning of the 2021-2022 legislative session. It did not advance. The timeline is now compressed. It has to first pass the [Health Committee](#) by January 14, then the [Appropriations Committee](#) by January 21, with an Assembly floor vote by January 31.
- Health Committee chair Jim Wood, whom activists have steadily lobbied, has indicated **he will vote in favor** of the bill.
- **Action needed:** Calls to committee members need to continue. Make them on your own (click links above), or connect with the California Nurses Association (CNA) [campaign](#). Stress the need for the bill to move forward for full consideration.

2. Constitutional Amendment Proposed with Financing Plan (Plus)

- **Note:** Passage of a constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds vote in the legislature followed by a simple majority of voters at the ballot box.
- Ash Kalra and co-authors have introduced a **comprehensive** constitutional amendment that does two things at once. It **specifies new taxes*** to fund the single payer system, and it **resolves lingering constitutional issues** seen as potential obstacles to the state's undertaking of this high-ticket program.

*Read the [text](#) of **ACA-11**, which includes the financing plan.

[Sign up](#) for a CNA-sponsored presentation on the financing plan on January 12 at 5 p.m. featuring policy specialist and Commissioner Carmen Comsti.

A little context for this strategy...

Why isn't financing in the bill?

Lack of financing has been used by lawmakers as a reason to hold up single payer bills. But adding a financing plan to a policy bill would make it a heavier lift. A two-thirds vote would be needed to approve new taxes vs the simple majority vote that now suffices to approve the system's design. Passing the policy bill is seen as a big enough first step until financing details are agreed on.

What would the constitutional amendment do?

In addition to identifying funding sources for the AB 1400 single payer system, it would **resolve two possible constitutional challenges**:

- the provision that limits increases in state spending (the Gann Limit-1979);
- the provision that allocates a certain portion of state revenues to education (Prop 98-1988).

Basically, the amendment states that revenues and expenditures related to the healthcare trust fund would not figure into the calculations governing these two provisions.

Tell Gov. Newsom it's time to keep his promise!

It was gratifying to see so many supporters contact Gov. Newsom and circulate the HCA letter calling on him to back AB 1400. Thank you! Let's keep it up.

- **Read** the letter to Gov. Newsom [here](#). Contact him [here](#) by email or phone.
- Circulate the letter and the contact link widely through your social media.

A **HUGE THANK YOU!** to those who continue to respond to recent appeals for HCA renewal donations. To so many of you who have been meaning to contribute to HCA, please see the information in the box below.

In gratitude, solidarity and mounting optimism,

Ellen Karel ~ Chair, Health Care for All - California

Donate

Take Action



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.