



SENATOR
RICARDOLARA
LEGISLATIVE FACTSHEET

Healthy California Act Senate Bill 562

Summary:

SB 562 will establish a state based universal health care system and provide comprehensive health care coverage to every Californian.

Background:

Under the Affordable Care Act and Covered California, the number of uninsured people in our state is at a historic low. 5 million people now have coverage through Medical and Covered California. In 2015 Governor Brown signed SB 4 Health4All Kids and the 2017-18 budget proposal includes \$279.5 million to cover 185,000 children regardless of their immigration status.

Problem:

Despite the incredible progress California has made, lack of insurance still plagues immigrant communities, rural California, working families and young people. Even with the Affordable Care Act, a study last year found that 1 in 5 Americans with health insurance still have problems paying their health care bills and it is far worse for people without insurance with 1 in 2 struggling to pay their bills.¹ As of 2015, 28.5 million people nationally remain uninsured. In California, we have cut our uninsured rate in half, to about 7.4 percent of the population², but roughly 2.9 million residents remain uninsured. Of those millions the majority cite costs as the main reason they did not purchase insurance. Many others are undocumented and prohibited from receiving subsidies or even purchasing insurance through the exchange.³

Americans already pay more than any industrialized nation for health care, almost \$10,000 per person, far more than any industrialized country.⁴ The average

family pays nearly \$5,000 per year out of pocket just for basic coverage,⁵ and taxpayers pay more than ever.

Solution:

With President Trump's promises to abandon the Affordable Care Act and leave millions without access to care, California must lead. SB 562 will move health care coverage to one publicly-run plan that covers everyone who lives in the state. Every California resident will have one plan and the ability to choose their provider.

SB 562 principles:

- Patients pick their doctor, hospital, and clinic, not insurers.
- No more surprise out of network bills.
- Clinicians make decisions about care, not computers.
- Insurance company waste is cut from our system.
- Hospitals can focus on providing care, not filing paper work.
- By pooling health care funds in a publicly-run fund we get the bargaining power of the seventh largest economy in the world.
- There will be public oversight on costs and care, not decisions made in secret by companies.
- California can finally clamp down on out of control prescription drug costs.
- No more out exorbitant co-pays and high deductibles.

We will never get to 100 percent health care coverage in California unless we lead. SB 562 will finally cover all residents and clamp down on health care costs.

Contact:

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¹ <http://kff.org/health-costs/press-release/new-kaisernew-york-times-survey-finds-one-in-five-working-age-americans-with-health-insurance-report-problems-paying-medical-bills/>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201611.pdf>

³ <http://kff.org/uninsured/fact-sheet/key-facts-about-the-uninsured-population/>

⁴ <https://data.oecd.org/healthres/health-spending.htm>

⁵ <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/family-coverage/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedRows=%7B%22nested%22:%7B%22california%22:%7B%7D%7D%7D>