



GET THE FACTS ON SINGLE PAYER

With 2022's historic budget passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom, California became the first state that will offer affordable universal health care for all.

Despite this progress, special interests are still trying to force all 40 million Californians into a new, untested health system known as "single payer" that will cost taxpayers more than \$200 Billion / year in higher taxes on jobs, income, services and more. Under this flawed system, Californians would have no ability to opt out or choose private coverage – jeopardizing people's access to their doctor and the quality of health care they receive.

Californians need a stable health care system now more than ever. Instead, single payer puts at risk the health care that millions of Californians rely on. As the *San Jose Mercury News* [editorial](#) stated about last year's AB 1400: "Single-payer bill is a big waste of the California's Legislature's time".

Single Payer Disrupts the Health Care of 40 Million Californians

Single payer proposals – including AB 1400 (2022) and SB 562 (2017) – would force all Californians into a new, untested health care system overseen by state government. The proponents frequently claim people will be able to keep their doctor, but there is no way of guaranteeing that with such a disruptive overhaul. Single payer systems in other countries frequently face challenges with longer wait times and less access to some health care services

Single Payer Is Enormously Costly: Requires At Least \$200 Billion Per Year in Higher Taxes

Single payer is not free health care for all.

The overall cost of single payer is likely over \$500 billion a year – more than twice the size of the typical state budget. Fully funding it requires Congress to pass legislation redirecting roughly \$200 billion / year in Medicare and Medi-Cal funding – a virtual impossibility. But even assuming that Congress passed and a President signed such legislation, there would still be an enormous shortfall of \$200 billion or more a year to be filled with higher taxes on jobs, income, services and more.

California is already too expensive for millions of Californians - \$200 billion a year in higher taxes would devastate the finances of many families.

Voters Are Satisfied With Their Health Care and Want to Build on the ACA – Not Create a New Government-Run System

- A super-majority of California voters (73%) – including Democrats (72%) – are satisfied with the health care they and their families have today.
- Strong majorities of California voters (60%) – especially Democrats (62%) – want a mix of public and private coverage to be available.

- Strong majorities of California voters (62%) – including a plurality of Democrats (49%) – don’t trust state government to take over the entire health care system when they can’t manage the DMV without massive problems and long lines.
- And a strong majority of Democrats (58%) prefer to build on the progress we’ve made with the ACA, not completely overhaul our entire health care system.

The Legislature should listen to the broad majorities of voters, including Democrats, that support building on the current system that is providing them with good health care.

Single Payer Faces Impossible Structural Challenges

The massive overhaul of California’s health care system contemplated by single payer requires addressing some all-but-insurmountable hurdles:

- Obtaining permanent federal waivers to redirect nearly \$200 billion in existing Medicare and Medicaid funding to a new, untested state-run health insurance system.
 - Current President Biden opposes single payer; new HHS Secretary Becerra is following Biden’s direction.
 - California can’t count on future Administrations or Congresses to approve or maintain the necessary waivers, especially given attacks on the ACA.
- Circumventing federal pre-emption of ERISA plans and the 5.6 million Californians covered under them.
 - This very likely requires Congressional action. At a minimum, AB 1400 contained no solution.
- How to amend California’s constitution to circumvent voter-approved protections for school funding (Prop 98) and against over-spending (Gann Limit / Prop 4). AB 1400 included no language to send these issues to the voters, nor did its authors indicate any such intent.

Bottom line: single payer is a costly, disruptive proposal that ignores California’s historic progress on health care.

California can’t afford single payer.

Protect California Health Care, a coalition of doctors, nurses, hospitals, employers and other Californians concerned about the impact of single payer on our health care system includes:

- California Medical Association
- California Hospital Association
- American Nurses Association / California
- America’s Physician Groups
- California Senior Advocates League
- California Association of Health Plans
- Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Business Roundtable
- California Agents and Health Insurance Professionals