

# PRESS RELEASE



California Association of  
**Health Plans**



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### Capitol Weekly: Experts Expound: Single Payer Healthcare

**August 28, 2023**—Capitol Weekly recently published an [article](#) asking health care and state political experts for their thoughts on whether implementing a single payer health care system in California is realistic or not. Nearly all interviewed indicated that implementing a single payer system in California is not feasible nor necessary considering the strides that California has made in expanding health care coverage.

Experts interviewed included: Elizabeth Ashford, Hector Barajas, A.G. Block, Barry Brokaw, Samantha Corbin, Jon Costantino, Richard Costigan, Tim Foster, Rex Frazier, John Howard, Fiona Hutton, Gale Kaufman, Steven Maviglio, Mike McCey, Paul Mitchell, Barbara O'Connor, Jack Ohman, Kassy Perry, Garry South, Paula Treat, Bill Wong, and Daniel Zingale.

Below are some quotes from the article:

#### **Will California ever implement single payer health care?**

“Not in our lifetime. The billions in costs will crush the state budget, and “undoing” the current system is like putting toothpaste back into the tube.

“...Why? We already have Obamacare.

“...Nope. Can someone please give Legislators the memo? Hot tip: California should make it mandatory to use federal Obamacare benefits (we’re all paying into them!) and then look at health outcomes instead of jockeying for more change.

“...No, it’s a fevered pipe dream. It would be a nightmare for the state to administer — and if one takes a quick glance at how the state can’t even efficiently or competently administer the EDD (billions stolen), how would it manage the healthcare of every single Californian? The proponents also disingenuously imply that “Medicare-for-all” would somehow constitute free healthcare paid for entirely by taxes. That isn’t even how Medicare works for current recipients, as anyone who is on Medicare knows. Part A is free, but there is a monthly premium for Part B, a monthly premium for Part D, and most recipients have a private supplemental plan to pay for what Parts A and B don’t — also requiring a monthly premium. The whole concept the way it’s pitched is a scam.

“...Short answer: Not any time soon and not without tax reform. Longer: The LAO has estimated single-payer could cost California between \$314 billion and \$391 billion annually, which would need to be financed by a combination of tax hikes on businesses, workers and high earners – all things the Governor himself has spoken against at one time or another.”

To read the full article, click [here](#).

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*CAHP is a statewide association representing 44 full-service health plans. Through legislative advocacy, education and collaboration with other member organizations, CAHP works to sustain a strong environment in which our member plans can provide access to products that offer choice and flexibility to the more than 25 million members they serve. For more information, please visit <http://www.calhealthplans.org/> or call (916) 552-2910*