

COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

RE: AB 1400 (Kalra) / California Guaranteed Health Care for All Program (CalCare) / Universal Single-Payer Health Care Coverage / Health Care Cost Control System ([Council File: 21-0002-S83](#))

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

The Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council supports CF-21-0002-S83 for the City of Los Angeles to adopt a resolution of support for AB 1400, the California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act. This bill would establish a single-payer health care system in California, called CalCare, that will ensure that all Californians, regardless of employment, income, immigration status, race, gender, or any other considerations, can get the health care they need, free at the point of service.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed how grossly flawed and inequitable our multi-payer health system is and how critical it is for all Californians to be guaranteed access to health care. An estimated 1 in 3 Angelenos has been infected with COVID, and low-income communities of color are [disproportionately impacted](#), experiencing higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death. COVID has also [exacerbated long-standing racial inequalities in the job market](#), which means that low-income communities of color have also been hardest hit with job losses during the pandemic. The fact that health insurance is tied to employment means that those most likely to get COVID are also those that are most likely to be without medical insurance. This has created a system where those that are most in need of health care are the least likely to seek it due to its costs, especially when they are already [incredibly rent burdened](#). The inability to make rents combined with the inability to afford medical care has also been a major factor in the surge in the unhoused population across Los Angeles during the Covid-19 pandemic, which again [disproportionately impacts low-income communities of color](#).

AB 1400 sets in motion a single-payer health care coverage system in California, called CalCare, for all residents, regardless of citizenship status. By streamlining payments and lowering per-capita health care spending, CalCare guarantees quality health care and long-term care without creating barriers to care or out-of-pocket costs. By affirming health care as a right to all Californians and establishing a payment system that eliminates waste and aligns reimbursements with the actual cost of care, we can make significant progress on financing and acquiring state and federal approvals.

The Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council recommends that AB 1400/Cal Care be passed in order to:

- Equitably and effectively address the health care burden of the Covid-19 crisis by providing comprehensive health care to every resident of California, without any cost sharing.
- Guarantee health care be free at the point of service for every person in California, respectively, for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital,

surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; long-term care; and mental health care.

- Provide coverage without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors.
- Establish state-wide comprehensive universal single-payer health care and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.
- Guarantee that all residents of [NC] will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs.
- Improve the quality of life for the residents of [NC] because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 (Kalra), introduced on February 19, 2021, would establish a single payer health care system called the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program (CalCare) to cover all Californians; and

WHEREAS, despite gains made with the Affordable Care Act, 2.7 million Californians remain uninsured while another 12 million, comprising one-third of Californians with medical insurance, cannot afford their insurance co-pays or deductibles so are underinsured, and 5.2 million Californians lack dental insurance; and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic has exposed the instability and unsustainability of the current profit driven health system, with historic unemployment forcing many Californians to lose their employer sponsored health insurance at the same time hospitals have laid off thousands of doctors and nurses; and

WHEREAS, even after COVID, inadequate access to health care will increase preventable disease, erode trust in the medical establishment, and magnify trauma and mortality in the event of another public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, AB 1400 (CalCare) would enshrine health care as a human right by guaranteeing comprehensive, lifetime, high-quality care to all California residents, and establish a health care cost control system; and

WHEREAS, CalCare would provide every California resident freedom in their choice of providers and guarantee health care free at the point of service for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; hearing, dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, CalCare would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums and administrative bureaucracy that provide often inadequate coverage for government employees, and would ease the burden on municipal resources for handling the emergency needs of uninsured residents; and

WHEREAS, federal policy empowers states, as laboratories of democracy, to use Affordable Care Act innovation waivers to develop locally tailored approaches to health coverage, including by removing barriers to states that seek to implement universal single-payer approaches;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1400 (Kalra), which would create the California

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Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 
