

MONTEREY COUNTY



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May 11, 2021

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1400 (Kalra) California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (CalCare) – SUPPORT

On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors I write to express our support of AB 1400 (Kalra). 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.

Despite the gains made under the Affordable Care Act, nearly 3 million Californians have no health insurance, and millions more have insurance that they can't afford to use because their copays and deductibles are too high. Meanwhile, for-profit insurance companies are reporting record-breaking profits, even while the Covid-19 pandemic continues to ravage California and medical bankruptcies are at an all-time high. The Covid-19 pandemic has also magnified the enormous racial disparities in health care, especially in California where Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are experiencing higher Covid-19 infection and death rates.

CalCare health benefits will be fully comprehensive, including all primary and preventive care, hospital and outpatient services, prescription drugs, dental, vision, audiology, reproductive health services, maternity and newborn care, long-term services and supports, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment, laboratory and diagnostic services, ambulatory services, and more. Patients will have freedom to choose doctors, hospitals, and other providers they wish to see, without worrying about whether a provider is "in-network."

The CalCare program would be a truly transformative change to California's health care system. In addition to guaranteeing health care to all Californians, it would save families and businesses thousands in annual health care costs by cutting out the inefficiencies of our fragmented, for-profit insurance system.

For these reasons, Monterey County supports AB 1400 (Kalra). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Wendy Root Askew
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Cc: Hon. Anna Caballero, 12th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District

Hon. Robert Rivas, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)