



Join us for a

# HEALTHY CALIFORNIA NOW

[healthyca.org](http://healthyca.org)

Healthy California Now is a statewide coalition of activists dedicated to establishing a single-payer, Medicare For All system in California.

Our goal is to eliminate all barriers to care and liberate California from the stranglehold of the health insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry.

We need a fair, equitable, cost-efficient healthcare system that puts an end to increasing costs, limited provider choices, soaring drug prices, surprise bills, and health plans that charge more and cover less.

Healthy California Now is a statewide, non-partisan coalition of community, consumer, labor, health, disability, LGBTQ, business, and political organizations committed to building and broadening the movement to guarantee health care for all Californians. Our membership currently includes:

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment Institute

Americans for Democratic Action

Americans for Democratic Action – Southern California

Business Alliance for a Healthy California

Butte County Health Care Coalition

California Alliance for Retired Americans

California Federation of Teachers

California Public Employees AFSCME Retiree Chapter 36

Californians for Disability rights (Sacramento)

California Nurses Association

California One Care

California Partnership

Courage Campaign

Democratic Socialists of America – East Bay

Democratic Socialists of America – Los Angeles

Democratic Socialists of America – San Francisco

Diablo Valley Democratic Club (Walnut Creek)

Feel the Bern Democratic Club (Los Angeles)

Gray Panthers – Long Beach

Health Care for All – California

Health Care for All – Contra Costa County

Health Care for All – Marin County

Health Care for All – Los Angeles

Health Care for All – Napa Valley

Health Care for All – Sacramento Valley

Health Care for All – San Fernando Valley

Health Care for All – Humboldt County

Health Care for All – Yolo County

Health Care Action Committee

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees – #871 (Burbank)

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

LaMorinda Peace & Justice Group

National Union of Healthcare Workers

Physicians for a National Health Program – California Chapter

Progressive Democrats of America – California

Richmond Progressive Alliance

San Francisco Berniecrats

San Francisco Green Party

Santa Clara County Single Payer Health Care Coalition

Service Employees International Union 1021 – Medicare for All Committee

Single Payer Now

Therapists for Single Payer

University Professional and Technical Employees – CWA Local 9119

Unite Here

# ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join Healthy California Now for a single payer, Medicare for All system in our state, please fill out this form and send the annual affiliation fee appropriate for the size of your organization. Membership is for a calendar year – January 1 to December 31.

Organizations seeking membership must agree with our mission statement and not accept money from the health insurance, pharmaceutical, or hospital/nursing home industries.

Only one person from an organization may serve on Healthy California Now's Board of Directors (if elected per criteria for the board), and one person per organization may cast votes at general meetings.

## AFFILIATION FEE SCHEDULE

15–100 members:  
\$50

100–999 members:  
\$100

1000 and more members:  
\$250

Organization name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation fee: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_

### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Healthy California Now, c/o Deane & Company,  
1787 Tribute Road, Suite K, Sacramento, CA 95815

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Healthy California Now is founded on the principles that healthcare is a human right, and that publicly financed guaranteed health care – care with a single standard for all residents of California – is critical to our state's social and economic well-being. We are dedicated to establishing a single-payer system in California as a model for a just and equitable U.S. healthcare system that eliminates all barriers to care. Our goal is to liberate California from the stranglehold of the health insurance companies and the pharmaceutical industry, to end the opaque and exorbitant pricing practices of California's giant hospital chains, and to deliver guaranteed healthcare to all of our state's residents."

## THE PROBLEM

Our health care system is broken. Twenty percent of Californians report being unable to pay their medical bills, according to a 2019 survey by the California Health Care Foundation. The same survey found that 30 percent of state residents received an unexpected medical bill within the last year and 40 percent said either they or a family member had delayed receiving health care because of the cost.

The problem is no less severe nationwide. Americans pay the most for the least amount of care, while billions of dollars are wasted in unnecessary administrative costs. As of 2017, the U.S. was spending \$3.24 trillion on personal health care. However, 9 percent of U.S. residents are uninsured and 26 percent are unable to access care because of prohibitively high costs to use their insurance, according to the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts. Other high-income countries spend an average of about 40 percent less per person and produce better health outcomes.

## THE SINGLE PAYER SOLUTION

Also known as Medicare for All, a single-payer system would cover everyone for all medically necessary services, including doctor, hospital, preventive, long-term care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision, prescription drug and medical supply costs. The program would be funded by combining our current, sources of public funding, such as Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal), with modest new taxes based on ability to pay.

Eliminating the waste in our current health care system will benefit patients and businesses. A 2017 single-payer bill introduced in the Senate would have reduced total health care spending in the United States by nearly 10 percent, to \$2.93 trillion, while creating stable access to good care for all U.S. residents, the researchers at PERI found. Businesses would have seen an 8 percent cut in premiums and health care costs for middle-income families would have been lowered between 2.6 and 14 percent of income.

## GROWING SUPPORT FOR SINGLE PAYER

A rising majority of Americans and Californians now support single-payer health care. A 2018 survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found that 53 percent of respondents backed a single-payer, Medicare for All system. The Kaiser Family Foundation released a poll this year finding that 56 percent of Americans support single-payer.

Gov. Gavin Newsom supports single payer. This is what he said during a 2017 candidate forum, held by the National Union of Healthcare Workers:

"There is a lot of mythology about the cost of a single-payer system — that somehow we are adding on top of an existing multipayer system when in fact it's about reallocating existing resources and using them more effectively and efficiently by replacing the current multipayer system. A single-payer system drives down the cost of health care. Even with Covered California, millions have seen double digit increases in their premiums. Single payer is the way to go."

## THE ROAD TO SINGLE PAYER

California can help lead the nation toward single payer. In 2018, the state Legislature appropriated \$5 million on a council that was tasked with researching and making recommendations for building the administrative and financial framework for a single-payer healthcare system.

Much has to be done, and the council's mandate and structure are still being worked out, but Healthy California is committed to helping build the framework for a single-payer system.

# **THE FEDERAL BILL: HR 1384: MEDICARE FOR ALL ACT**

At the national level, Healthy California Now supports the Medicare for All Act of 2019, introduced by Pramila Jayapal. This is the most comprehensive single-payer bill ever introduced to Congress.

HR 1384 improves and expands Medicare to every person in the United States and provides the following cradle-to-grave benefits:

- primary and inpatient care
- hospital and outpatient services
- prescription drugs
- dental, vision, hearing
- reproductive health, including abortion
- mental health and substance abuse services
- long-term services and supports
- laboratory and diagnostic services

## **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

**FREEDOM TO CHOOSE:** Patients will have complete freedom to choose the doctors, hospitals, and other providers they wish to see, without worrying about whether a provider is “in-network.”

**NO MORE PREMIUMS OR DEDUCTIBLES:** Enrollment in Medicare for All would not require any private insurance premiums or deductibles. Upon receiving care, patients would not be charged any co-pays or other out-of-pocket costs.

**CHEAPER DRUG PRICES:** The legislation authorizes Medicare to issue compulsory licenses to allow generic production if a pharmaceutical company refuses to negotiate a reasonable price.

## **TRANSITIONING TO MEDICARE FOR ALL**

The transition to Medicare for All would occur in two years.

One year after the date of enactment, persons over the age of 55 and under the age of 19 would be eligible for the program.

Two years after the date of enactment, all people living in the United States would be eligible for the program.