

GOVERNOR, KEEP THE PROMISE



Rally images by Ron Lee, more found [HERE](#)

Holding Steady on Single Payer

In this year full of turned tables and fresh starts, Healthy California Now (HCN) has remained steady in its focus on moving Governor Gavin Newsom to engage with the Federal Administration, to do what only the Governor can do in leading the state to single payer - and the progress we're making is exciting!

We kicked off the year with [the petition](#) calling on Governor Newsom to engage on the federal waivers. After months of collection during the pandemic lock-down, we gathered 19,000 signatures. We hosted a virtual [rally with Dolores Huerta](#), who urged the Governor's partnership with voters to get this done. To hear the long-time labor leader and healthcare champion's confidence gave fresh urgency for Single Payer in these times. Our polling data shows that [urging the Governor to lead strongly resonates with Californians](#). Congressman [Ro Khanna also called on Governor Newsom in a joint Sacbee op-ed with Huerta](#), saying now is the time to engage with the HHS and to start the process for state single payer.

OVERVIEW:

- Holding Steady on Single Payer, Summary of 2021
- No on the Recall gets a BOOST from Single Payer supporter
- #GavinKeepThePromise
- Healthy California for All Commission Gets Serious
- Recordings of Past Events

Join the movement to guarantee healthcare in California. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and [become a member](#) to get involved and support our work! Winning Medicare for All will take a people powered movement - join us!

On June 15th, the very day California re-opened from pandemic lock-down, [300+ activists convened at the Capitol building](#) in Sacramento to deliver the petition. Our rallying cry was #GavinLeadTheWay. Thank you to all who planned and participated in the action. It was encouraging to see the Governor's Deputy Legislative Secretary Tam Ma come out to not only receive the stacks of printed petitions but also to speak strongly in support of HCN's advocacy. She announced that the Governor had heard us loud and clear and sent a letter to the Biden administration to start moving towards our goal. And while the letter was not as strong as we'd hoped, it was a step in the direction of engaging with the Federal administration to get state Single Payer to fruition. As the Healthy California for All Commission moves towards charting a path forward, we see opportunities to further lay the groundwork to win in California.

HCN Article: [How NO on the Recall is Part of the Political Strategy to Win Single Payer](#)



No on Recall Effort Gets a BOOST From Single Payer Supporters

An important part of our Healthy California Now's work this year has been to fight the recall. Our affiliates are leading the way to stop the right-wing recall of Governor Newsom, while also growing support to counter the for-profit entities (some which are also fighting the recall) against single payer.

Courage California has produced a series of digital ads and outreach efforts urging progressive voters to turn out. See their campaign [HERE](#).

National Union of Healthcare Workers has initiated a digital outreach campaign to remind supporters that winning California Medicare for All starts with No on the Recall. Check out the ads [HERE](#).

California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) held a well-attended statewide education forum educating seniors about the importance of voting 'No on the Recall' with so many issues facing seniors at stake, including Medicare for All in California. Seniors sprang into action and have sent 20,000 handwritten postcards to GOTV for seniors to VOTE NO on the recall.

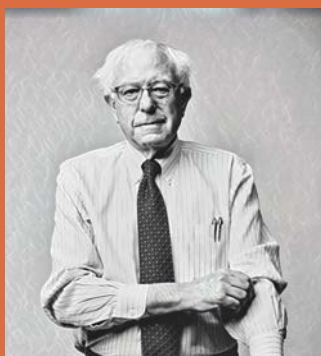


Photo by Peter Yang

The Federal Front: Bernie's New Plan Adds Dental Benefits to Medicare

By Michael Lighty

One of the hottest topics in the current congressional consideration of the "Budget Reconciliation" bill is the expansion of Medicare. Dental benefits have emerged as a flashpoint between those who favor the improvement and expansion of the existing public program versus those who want taxpayers to subsidize the profits of the commercial insurance companies through the ACA. [Click HERE for the rundown.](#)

Calling on the Governor to Keep The Promise



Photos by Greg Swartz

The July 31st #GavinKeepThePromise rally at the Governor's office in Downtown Los Angeles was a powerful event of solidarity, live-streamed along with simultaneous actions in Oakland and San Rafael. Activists gathered on the day after Medicare's 56th birthday to 1) recognize the unfulfilled promise of Medicare, 2) remember those lost to COVID-19 and for lack of healthcare, and 3) call on Governor Newsom to keep his promise and deliver state Single Payer. Many who gathered to hear the bold local voices were reinvigorated by the sense of community.

The Los Angeles program Live-Stream can be found [HERE](#).

2018: LIEUTENANT GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM

"It needs to be pulled into the Governor's office, the Executive needs to lead it. Obamacare would not have happened if it was just exclusively a legislative fiat."

"The only way, in a state whose population is larger than 163 nations, to approximate a strategy for universal healthcare is with the support and concurrence of the Governor. And quite frankly, it's not an indictment, it's just what's been missing in the past."

[August 28, 2018 episode of Pod Save America](#)



#GavinKeepThePromise

Following our June actions, the subsequent meetings of the Governor’s Healthy California for All Commission progressively transformed, first with CHHS Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly directly chairing the meeting and Commissioner Dr. William Hsiao, co-creator of Taiwan’s Single Payer system, taking center stage. Dr. Hsiao’s presentation challenged California to consider what Single Payer 2.0 might look like, as well as what is politically viable given the presence of corporate interests and lobbyists in nearly every space, including on the Commission. A brief from HCN President Michael Lighty:

This Commission was established in 2019 through negotiations between Governor Newsom and the California Legislative leadership to develop recommendations for “unified financing” of universal healthcare. It’s had an off and on schedule due to the pandemic but has met consistently since May with consequential meetings coming up in September and October.

Initially driven by consultants, some of whom were on record opposed to single payer, Commissioners have sought a more participatory process; the meetings are now led by its chair California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. An expanded group of consultants submitted a report at the end of May that showed single payer financing saving the state \$223 billion by 2031. Some may remember the fake “sticker shock” in 2018 when single payer was said to cost California \$400 billion per year (which was less than the current system) to cover everybody. Now the estimate is that maintaining the present patchwork healthcare financing and delivery system would cost \$800 billion in 2031!

The discussion has also shifted from a focus on multi-payer approaches, intermediaries, and barriers to single payer, with significant doses of debate over payment methodologies (fee for service vs. per capita). Since Dr. Ghaly has taken the lead there is an emphasis on how to do unified financing with each commissioner getting significant opportunities to contribute. Most notably, commissioner Dr. William Hsiao, an internationally renowned health economist who has designed several national healthcare systems, provided models for single payer that California could adopt. At the September meeting Dr. Ghaly expressed a desire for the Commission’s report to include a road map for how California could establish single payer financing. *(Continued on next page)*



[Dolores Huerta](#)
[June 14th HCN virtual rally](#)

DOLORES HUERTA

"There are no longer any excuses as to why we in California should not lead the way."

"We have to reimagine healthcare. We have to get rid of the discriminations that exist in our society, including the discriminations in healthcare."

"At the end of the day, it's the votes that count and votes can counter the money. He is going to depend on our votes, and money cannot save him from the people who are trying to get rid of him. We have to remind the Governor that he needs our votes and we need his authority to pass Single Payer. That's a partnership—that's an exchange that we have."

There continues to be debate over the role of risk-based reimbursement, with strong opposition to the inclusion of any financial incentive to deny care. Much of the discussion focuses on delivery system changes including enhancing care integration and care coordination. The integrated approach of PACE, a program for seniors needing multiple services, has received much favorable attention. Some commissioners are satisfied with current managed care programs in Medicaid and commercial insurance despite their negative impacts on access and equity, which has emerged as a major issue for the Commission. It will devote a separate meeting to health equity issues at the end of September (see meeting schedule). The limitations of current behavioral health services have also been scrutinized. Two of the commissioners have urged the consideration of AB 1400 as the blueprint for what the Commission should recommend, which so far has been rejected, though key elements of AB 1400 are regularly introduced into the discussions. Healthy California Now has had a strong presence at every single meeting, has fostered critical relationships with Commissioners, and has had public events to call out the Governor to lead – he will play the decisive role in promoting the Commission’s conclusions. As a result of our work, the commission is more progressively focused.

Healthy California for All (HCFA) Commission September Meetings

Healthy California Now (HCN) members have been a powerful presence, consistent and engaged, at every single HCFA meeting. Thank you all for continuing to bring your credible and experienced perspectives to the table. We will continue to show up and advocate for Single Payer and a more equitable system every step of the way. Below are the dates for the next three Commission meetings. September is very busy.

- September 21: Healthy CA for All Commission Webinar on Community Engagement
- September 23rd Healthy CA for All Commission Meeting
- September 28th: Healthy CA for All Special Meeting on Racial Equity

Public comments (typically 60 seconds) can be made at the commission meetings or by email to HealthyCAforAll@chhs.ca.gov

Additional information, including agenda and RSVP links (usually provided 10 days ahead of the scheduled meeting) can be found at <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/healthycforall/>



Former Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin

“It’s got to be a governor—I don’t think a legislature can do it—that is leading the charge, to explain to the people who have elected them why this is so important. Now luckily you have a Governor who is supportive.... and a damn good salesperson—you need it.”

[Gov. Peter Shumlin](#)
[July 8th Governor’s HCFA](#)
[Commission meeting](#)

June 29th: Young Workers for Medicare for All

The Los Angeles Young Workers, an affiliate of the County AFL-CIO bring this important conversation on unions and Single Payer. It was an open and honest conversation about the challenges we must face.

Guest speakers:

- Ada Briceño - Co-President, UNITE HERE Local 11
- Assemblymember Ash Kalra - Author of AB 1400
- Michael Lighty - Medicare for All Expert and Strategist
- Mark Ramos - President, UFCW Local 1428
- Aquilina Soriano - Executive Director, Pilipino Workers Center
- Analisa Swan - Workers' Comp Attorney
- And more voices from the community

June 25th HCFA Commission Meeting

First Healthy California for All Commission meeting chaired directly by Dr. Mark Ghaly.

Main presentation by Commissioner Dr. William Hsiao, prominent single payer designer. Discusses pros and cons of Taiwan's model.

Dr. Hsiao has actively engaged in designing health system reforms and universal health insurance programs for many countries, including the USA, Taiwan, China, Colombia, Poland, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Sweden, Cyprus, Uganda and most recently for Malaysia and South Africa.

July 8th HCFA Commission Meeting

Most notably, former Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin shares VT's Single Payer deep-dive experience, answers

commissioners questions. He was extremely encouraging of California, Newsom, and a potentially sympathetic Biden administration.

- 1) Follow-up on Unified Financing Direct Payment Models
- 2) Discussion with Governor Peter Shumlin on barriers faced by Vermont
- 3) Advancing Accountability, Integration and Care Coordination under Unified Financing

August 25th HCFA Commission Meeting

- Behavioral health integration and accountability
- Systems of accountability to assure improved equity, quality and access



Jackie Goldberg
July 31st, Downtown LA
Keep The Promise Rally

LAUSD Board Member Jackie Goldberg

"When I got to the state assembly, the Honorable Senator Sheila Kuehl wrote Senate Bill 921. That was 18 years ago in 2003. Now here's the deal: We don't need to have a bill passed now. We need the Governor to seek a waiver. We need to be, in my opinion, very strategic. We need to say that's the one thing he needs to do now. Why do I say that? Because the machinations in Sacramento, which for six years I was very familiar, will change and go back and forth, and the bill will come and go and be changed and authors will come and go. But once there's a waiver, you have an opportunity to build a system."

"Gavin, I'm calling on you. We need you to seek the waiver now. It costs him nothing. It does not commit him to a plan or a bill. It commits him to moving this forward. That's what we need him to do. So join with me in saying, "Seek the waiver!"

Miscellaneous Resources

[Act 128 Health System Reform Design Achieving Affordable Universal Health Care in Vermont](#)

Some of HCFA Commissioners have referenced this document co-authored by
WILLIAM C. HSIAO, PhD, FSA K.T. Li Professor of Economics Harvard University
STEVEN KAPPEL, MPA Principal Policy Integrity, LLC
JONATHAN GRUBER, PhD Professor of Economics Massachusetts Institute of Technology
And a team of health policy analysts
February 17, 2011

[Projected costs of single-payer healthcare financing in the United States: A systematic review of economic analyses](#)

The study was published Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020. By Christopher Cai, Jackson Runte, Isabel Ostrer, Kacey Berry, Ninez Ponce, Michael Rodriguez, Stefano Bertozzi, Justin S. White, James G. Kahn

"In this systematic review, we found a high degree of analytic consensus for the fiscal feasibility of a single-payer approach in the US. Actual costs will depend on plan features and implementation. Future research should refine estimates of the effects of coverage expansion on utilization, evaluate provider administrative costs in varied existing single-payer systems, analyze implementation options, and evaluate US-based single-payer programs, as available."

[Beyond the Affordable Care Act A Physicians' Proposal for Single-Payer Health Care Reform](#)

The Physicians' Proposal for Single-Payer Health Reform was drafted by a working group of 39 physicians and has been endorsed by more than 2,231 other physicians and 149 medical students. The most important feature of the Physicians' Proposal is the removal of all financial barriers to medical care.

[1-page summary](#)

[Full document \(7 pages plus references\)](#)

Articles

[Health Care Unions Defending Newsom From Recall Will Want Single-Payer Payback](#)

Angela Hart, California Healthline, September 2021

[Want a Green New Deal? Get Medicare for All First](#)

Thom Hartmann, The Progressive Magazine, September 2021

[Column: Adding dental coverage to Medicare makes a lot of sense – except to dentists](#)

David Lazarus, LA Times, September 2021

[CVS Health Quietly Made Massive Donation to Dark-Money Group Fighting Access to Care](#)

Lee Fang, The Intercept, April 2021