



January 27, 2022

**RE: AB 1400 (Kalra/Lee/Santiago) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymembers James Ramos, Freddie Rodriguez, Chris Holden

The San Bernardino County Democratic Party (SBCDP) strongly supports 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.

In tonight's SBCDP membership meeting we heard personal and heartbreaking stories from our members on why they support AB 1400. Our members have lost loved ones due to an inability to pay for Medical Insurance, and members who expressed how AB 1400 would be crucial to help our undocumented communities get much needed care. In addition the motion to support AB 1400 was passed unanimously by our membership body. A show of solidarity between the County Party and our local Assemblymembers would send a powerful message to community members struggling to get access to Healthcare.

Today's U.S. health care system is a complex, fragmented multi-payer system that still leaves wide gaps of coverage and poses significant issues of affordability. 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.

Research has shown that a single-payer system can save our state billions of dollars annually, while covering our population with comprehensive health care. CalCare would move the state to a simplified health care payment system that will free health care providers from devoting time on billing and instead focus on patient care. The new system would establish reasonable payment methodologies for providers that are aligned with the actual costs of care rather than driven by profits.

CalCare would negotiate fair, adequate global budgets to hospitals and other institutional providers to help contain the exorbitant costs by aligning health care payments with the actual cost of care and eliminating waste present in the system today.

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 of dollars in annual health care costs by cutting out the bloat and inefficiencies of our fragmented, for-profit insurance system.

Now is the time for action. We urge you and the entire California state legislature to pass and enact AB 1400 into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Washington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Washington  
Chair, San Bernardino County Democratic Party