



SB 562, Lara/Atkins, The Healthy California Act

What is SB 562, and why do we need it?

Healthcare in the US is under acute attack. It is time for California to act.

SB 562 establishes a single-payer healthcare system in California, eliminating insurance companies, and providing equal, comprehensive, affordable, accessible healthcare for everyone.

Today's public or private doctors, hospitals, and other providers would continue to deliver healthcare, but instead of being paid by insurance companies that deny care, they would be paid by a single independent, publicly-accountable Healthy California Board that would pay for all medically appropriate care. Doctors paid by the Board could not collect outside money.

All California residents would receive care, and the same quality of care, regardless of age, health, income, job status, gender/gender-orientation, and importantly, documentation.

All medically appropriate care is covered, including dental, vision, hearing, reproductive health, durable medical equipment, tests, diagnostic procedures, preventative care, and mental health.

Patients would pay no deductibles, co-payments, or bills. Care provided by doctors and hospitals would be paid by the Healthy California Board. This Board would also negotiate prices to be paid to doctors, hospitals, drug companies, equipment makers, and other healthcare providers.

You would choose your doctors, and hospitals, unless you chose to join an integrated medical plan like Kaiser which uses their providers. Since patients pay no out-of-pocket costs, and receive the same standard of care, there is no pressure or incentive to choose low-cost providers.

Money to run the healthcare system would come by pooling existing federal, state, and local healthcare funds (70% of California healthcare is already paid by government sources) plus progressive taxation of businesses and taxpayers.

A fiscal study of various alternatives for healthcare benefits and payment sources will be finished in May, but preliminary figures show people will pay much less in additional taxation than they are paying for medical costs now. Eliminating insurance companies alone will save 25-30% of healthcare costs. Huge savings could also come from negotiating drug prices.

Where is SB 562 in the legislative process?

SB 562 is held up in Assembly Rules Committee by Speaker Rendon. It must pass the Health Committee by July 14, Appropriations by Sept 1, whole Assembly by Sept 15 to pass this year, otherwise it is a 2 year bill. It requires 2/3 passage since funding added.

What Can You Do to Help Pass SB 562?

Contact the Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, 916-319-2063, to demand that he release SB 562 to be heard by the Health Committee. If he disagrees with its financing, let the financing be worked out in the legislature. He cannot simply halt a measure that millions of Californians depend on.

Contact Health Committee members, particularly Chair Jim Woods, who is in strong opposition and Sharon Quirk-Silva. (Shaded legislators are already co-signers.) Tell them:

- SBb562 **has** a fiscal plan associated with it. It will save individuals, businesses, and governments huge amounts of money.
- Considering the healthcare threats and chaos from Washington DC, California can, and must, move forward with a rational and human health plan.
- SB 562 covers everyone in California, including undocumented immigrants.
- SB 562 gives comprehensive care, including dental, vision, and reproductive care.
- SB 562 eliminates insurance companies, allows freedom to choose doctors and hospitals, with no more denials of medically appropriate care.
- SB 562 eliminates deductibles, co-pays, and bills for patients, and makes drug companies, hospitals, and doctors negotiate their prices with the State.

Assembly Health Committee updated 5-3-2017					
Dist	First	Last	Affil.	Phone (916)	Fax (916)
02	Jim	Wood	D-(chair)	319-2002	319-2102
03	James	Gallagher	R	319-2003	319-2103
07	Kevin	McCarty	D	319-2007	319-2107
15	Tony	Thurmond	D	319-2015	319-2115
18	Rob	Bonta	D	319-2018	319-2118
23	Jim	Patterson	R	319-2023	319-2123
37	Monique	Limón	D	319-2037	319-2137
46	Adrin	Nazarian	D	319-2046	319-2146
52	Freddie	Rodriguez	D	319-2052	319-2152
53	Miguel	Santiago	D	319-2053	319-2153
54	Sebastian	Ridley-Thomas	D	319-2054	319-2154
62	Autumn	Burke	D	319-2062	319-2162
65	Sharon	Quirk-Silva	D	319-2065	319-2165
75	Marie	Wardron	R	319-2075	319-2175
77	Brian	Maienschein	R(vchair)	319-2077	319-2177

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