

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to urge to endorse and fight for a single payer Medicare system for California. I am a voting resident of California, for my entire life. I grew up here, I received a public education here from kindergarten through the University of California system, and I currently work in the legalized cannabis industry.

As I work in the cannabis industry, and it has been impossible for the company I work for to offer us insurance due to the banking issues regarding cannabis and federal regulations. This is not a small issue for this company alone, many others are facing the same issue as us. On behalf of the cannabis industry, please give California a single payer health system, it may be the single biggest assist you can do for the workers of this industry, and the state as a whole. Since inception, we have been a lucrative tax revenue source and I believe that some of these funds should be returned to the employees, employers, and other citizens of California, through a single payer health care system.

The implementation of a single payer healthcare system would also be one of the biggest equalizers of all races of Californian citizens. It would not fix the systemic healthcare differences, but it would begin to alleviate the difference in accessing them and also be a start for addressing other issues related to this matter. Why would you not be putting pressure on the legislature and the people of California as the first step towards addressing systemic racism?

Concerning the commission that you tasked with developing "An environmental analysis of health care delivery, coverage, and financing in California;" how has it been appropriate that they postpone, well past their two year mandate, during a pandemic. I am not the smartest person in the world, but it would appear to me that this would be a time to increase their pace rather than decrease it. We, the people, would also like more transparency of who the voting and non-voting members are, their ties to any industry or advocacy groups, and their financial holdings (including family members) if they pertain to industries that may have conflicts of interest. It is my opinion that they have been very dismissive of pro single payer citizens during the open sessions, such that it seems many have a bias against it, leading me to believe that this is a shame of a commission.

I would like to commend the commission members; Carmen Comsti, Dr. Rupa Marya, Sarah Flocks, and William Hsiao for their tireless advocacy of a single payer healthcare system, and also the citizens who have expressed the majority of support for it as well. I doubt that you have actually sat through and watched the open portion of these webinars, but the vast majority of people who do participate want a single payer health care system, and it is your responsibility to serve your people.

So please Gov. Newsom, please stop stalling a single payer healthcare system with commissions, stop evading it with excuses of a pandemic when we need it now more than ever, and stop giving us displays of virtue signalling without any legislation that would materially make our lives better.

Sincerely,

Ross Ward