

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 299-5105



September 10, 2019

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Panetta:

The County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384, the "Medicare for All Act of 2019," and thanks you for your co-sponsorship of this legislation.

The availability of health care insurance coverage is essential to ensuring that all residents receive comprehensive medical care. The availability of comprehensive care benefits both patients and providers as it results in improved health outcomes, lower costs, and greater equity. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act reduced the uninsured rate in Santa Clara County from 11.9% in 2012 to 4.1% in 2017¹. While the decrease in the number of uninsured residents is encouraging, many people remain either uninsured or underinsured and when emergent health situations occur these individuals turn to safety net providers, such as public hospitals, for care. As the operator of three hospitals in the County, our public health care system sees and treats these individuals. Our hospitals provide over 70% of the care to the uninsured in our community.

H.R. 1384 would improve and expand the Medicare program so that every person living in the United States, regardless of their employment, income, or health status, would have guaranteed access to health care with comprehensive benefits. All health care consumers would have the right to receive care from the providers of their choice.

H.R. 1384 would simplify the health care system by moving to a single-payer model. This would reduce administrative expenses and allow providers to focus on patient care. The current level of public funding, which now accounts for about two-thirds of U.S. health spending, would be retained. Additionally, patients would no longer face financial barriers to care such as co-pays and deductibles.

It is for the above-stated reasons, the County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384. Thank you again for your support of this legislation and your efforts to ensure health care coverage for all.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D.
County Executive

cc: Santa Clara County Congressional Delegation
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Erin Dorton, Prime Policy Group

¹ American Community Survey, 1-year estimates for 2012 and 2017

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September 10, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
U.S. House of Representatives
635 N. First Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Representative Lofgren:

The County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384, the "Medicare for All Act of 2019," and thanks you for your co-sponsorship of this legislation.

The availability of health care insurance coverage is essential to ensuring that all residents receive comprehensive medical care. The availability of comprehensive care benefits both patients and providers as it results in improved health outcomes, lower costs, and greater equity. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act reduced the uninsured rate in Santa Clara County from 11.9% in 2012 to 4.1% in 2017¹. While the decrease in the number of uninsured residents is encouraging, many people remain either uninsured or underinsured and when emergent health situations occur these individuals turn to safety net providers, such as public hospitals, for care. As the operator of three hospitals in the County, our public health care system sees and treats these individuals. Our hospitals provide over 70% of the care to the uninsured in our community.

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It is for the above-stated reasons, the County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384. Thank you again for your support of this legislation and your efforts to ensure health care coverage for all.

Sincerely,

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Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D.
County Executive

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September 10, 2019

The Honorable Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives
513 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Khanna:

The County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384, the "Medicare for All Act of 2019," and thanks you for your co-sponsorship of this legislation.

The availability of health care insurance coverage is essential to ensuring that all residents receive comprehensive medical care. The availability of comprehensive care benefits both patients and providers as it results in improved health outcomes, lower costs, and greater equity. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act reduced the uninsured rate in Santa Clara County from 11.9% in 2012 to 4.1% in 2017¹. While the decrease in the number of uninsured residents is encouraging, many people remain either uninsured or underinsured and when emergent health situations occur these individuals turn to safety net providers, such as public hospitals, for care. As the operator of three hospitals in the County, our public health care system sees and treats these individuals. Our hospitals provide over 70% of the care to the uninsured in our community.

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It is for the above-stated reasons, the County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384. Thank you again for your support of this legislation and your efforts to ensure health care coverage for all.

Sincerely,

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Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D.
County Executive

cc: Santa Clara County Congressional Delegation
Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
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September 10, 2019

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

On behalf of the County of Santa Clara, I write to express our support for H.R. 1384, the "Medicare for All Act of 2019."

The availability of health care insurance coverage is essential to ensuring that all residents receive comprehensive medical care. The availability of comprehensive care benefits both patients and providers as it results in improved health outcomes, lower costs, and greater equity. The implementation of the Affordable Care Act reduced the uninsured rate in Santa Clara County from 11.9% in 2012 to 4.1% 2017ⁱ. While the decrease in the number of uninsured residents is encouraging, many people remain either uninsured or underinsured and when emergent health situations occur these individuals turn to safety net providers, such as public hospitals, for care. As the operator of three hospitals in the County, our public health care system sees and treats these individuals. Our hospitals provide over 70% of the care to the uninsured in our community.

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It is for the above-stated reasons, the County of Santa Clara supports H.R. 1384.
We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective of the bill with you.

Sincerely,

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Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D.
County Executive

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Erin Dorton, Prime Policy Group

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