

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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October 26, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Creation of a single-payer healthcare system-Support

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge the creation of a single-payer healthcare system to provide universal, equitable, lower cost healthcare to better protect the health and improve the lives of our constituents.

Besides saving lives, guaranteed healthcare for all would save our state budget many billions of dollars over the next decade by removing the profiteering of private insurance. The skyrocketing cost of premiums for municipal employees is already draining local government budgets of the resources they need to meet today's needs.

The County of Sonoma spends more than \$87 million a year on health coverage for current and retired employees. We are joining our local cities of Sonoma, Petaluma, Sebastopol and Santa Rosa in supporting single-payer healthcare at the federal and state level.

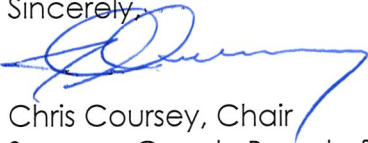
Current proposed legislation—the Medicare for All Act of 2023 (S. 1655/HR 3421) at the federal level, and CalCare at the state level—propose single-payer, publicly funded insurance systems that guarantee quality care for all, without co-pays, deductibles, or out-of-pocket costs. Residents, regardless of legal status, age or employment, would no longer be denied care or forced to use an emergency room due to lack of adequate insurance, nor pushed into poverty due to a health crisis.

There couldn't be a more urgent moment to address the shortcomings of our inadequate, inequitable, and fragmented healthcare system. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only highlighted the vital importance of public health, it has demonstrated the folly of tying health insurance to employment.

The Sonoma County Legislative Platform supports legislation or regulations that would increase affordable health care for all.

We urge you to create a single-payer system that will provide all residents with universal, comprehensive, and equitable health coverage without financial barriers to care.

Sincerely,



Chris Coursey, Chair
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
President Joseph Biden
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senate
The Honorable Mike McGuire, California State Senate
The Honorable Damon Connolly, California State Assembly
The Honorable Jim Wood, California State Assembly
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, California State Assembly
The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senate
The Honorable Laphonza Butler, United States Senate
The Honorable Jared Huffman, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Thompson, United States House of Representatives
Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services
Paul Yoder and Karen Lange, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, Inc.