

## **Republican Perspective**

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**by Ed Manning**

### **PROGRESSIVES PLAN TO SCRAP MEDICARE/MEDICAID**

If you are over 65 and a resident of California, the Democrat Legislature may end your coverage of Medicare and Medicaid. State Senators Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) and Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) have proposed to cover all California residents with a publicly run plan, called Healthy California.

SB-562 will establish single payer health insurance for ALL residents of the Golden State. The Bill cleared the Senate Health Committee by a vote of 5-2 on April 26th. After the vote, Lara offered: "With today's vote we are closer to being able to say, once and for all, that healthcare is not a privilege, it's a human right. Every family, every child, every senior deserves healthcare that costs less and covers more, and California has a chance to lead the rest of the nation toward universal care." It next goes to Senate Appropriations Committee, which Lara chairs.

Costs less and offers more — sounds like some of the elixir sold by snake oil salesmen. Rossmore residents, regardless of political persuasion should be concerned about the impact of this legislation. Decide if you like SB-562:

- Single payer insurance will provide "one size fits all" insurance to all people living in California, including illegal residents. One plan for all Californians from cradle-to-grave health coverage. All private health insurance will be prohibited.
- There will be no Medicare for Californians 65 and older. Seniors and the disabled who currently have Medicare, Advantage plans, Supplement plans and Part D plans will be dis-enrolled and enrolled on to the single payer plan.
- Plan benefits will be determined by an un-elected board of special interest appointees of the state government. These gurus will determine which benefits will be included and how much providers are paid. This may result in rationing health care and force doctors and hospitals to leave the state if they are not fairly compensated for their services.
- There will be no employer health insurance plans. Employers cannot offer benefits that are any better than the single payer plan. Multi-state employers will not be allowed to offer any plans in California.
- There will be no Federal or State employee health insurance plans.
- There will be no union health insurance plans.
- There will be no Medi-Cal or Medicaid.
- Doctors and hospitals will be paid for their services by the State, who will need to create a monstrous bureaucracy to process and pay claims. Fraud, abuse and

waste are a given. Other government-run health plans such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Veterans Administration regularly suffer scandals in billing, payments and sub-standard care.

State Senators Lara & Atkins, have not revealed how the State is going to pay for “free” health care for all. Initial estimates are that California would need an increase in current income tax of \$350 billion for just the first year. This amount equates to \$9,200 for each man/woman/child in addition to what he or she is already paying in income tax. A family of four would pay \$36,800 more CA income tax than they are currently paying.

Sick people from across the country would flock to California. The result would be long lines to wait for sub-standard health care. Take a number and wait for costly procedures such as heart and kidney transplants. Life-saving drugs will be rationed or not included at all in the single payer plan.

Senators Lara & Atkins and their supporters have stated that California leads the rest of the country in innovative changes. They want to oppose Federal government deliberations on changes to the health insurance market by being the first state to adopt a single payer system. Yet two other states, Colorado and Vermont, recently voted against single payer plans due to the unrealistic tax burden it places on its residents. If you object to losing your right to Medicare, Medicaid, losing your employer plan, being taxed an additional \$9,200 per family member, losing your right to choose your doctor, your hospital and your insurance benefits, then please contact your State Senator:

- Steve Glazer: <http://senate.ca.gov/senators>