



Lake County Democratic Central Committee  
P.O. Box 1151, Lakeport CA 95453  
707.533.4885; [www.lakecountymocrats.org](http://www.lakecountymocrats.org)  
FPPC#961174/FEC#C00389189

April 18, 2017  
Senator Ricardo Lara  
State Capitol, Room 5050  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 562 (LARA and ATKINS) – SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Lake County strongly supports SB 562, The Healthy California Act.

When enacted, the Healthy California Act will guarantee that every resident of California will receive comprehensive healthcare services. It's like Medicare for All. Individuals will have free choice of licensed health professionals and services. Covered benefits will include services to keep people healthy—mentally and physically— as well as those services that diagnose and treat diseases. In addition to emergency services, surgeries, and hospital stays, services such as home healthcare, day care and hospice are covered. Vision and dental care are also included. The Healthy California Act has been crafted to provide a single high standard of safe, therapeutic care for all California residents in a manner that is financially sustainable:

- Choose any provider. No more surprise bills. No out-of-pocket costs for covered services.
  - Eliminates co-pays for Medicare Part B.
  - Lower prescription drug costs.
  - Regional planning to reduce overlap and duplication of expensive equipment and facilities.
  - Provider rates which will replace and improve upon Medi-Cal rates, will be negotiated to ensure access, cost control and high-value services.
  - The advances from the Affordable Care Act will be folded into the new system.
  - Huge cost-savings from reduced bureaucracy. No more insurance company runaround. No more bill collectors.
- Diverse participants including ordinary citizens and representatives of labor and business, as well as various health care professionals and health policy experts, will advise and help design the Healthy California program.
- A Healthy California premium, which is higher for upper income earners, would replace insurance company premiums, co-pays and deductibles—likely resulting in significant out-of-pocket net savings.



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The Democratic Party of Lake County has long supported a single payer health care delivery system in California and nationwide. In 2004, 2006 and in 2008 we supported and endorsed Sen. Sheila Kuehl's SB 921 (2004) and SB 840 (2006, 2008) respectively. We supported SB 810 when it was carried by Sen. Mark Leno in 2010 and 2012.

As rural Californians we keenly understand the need for a single payer system that is accessible to all Californians.

Rural Californians are especially vulnerable to losing or not having access to coverage via a for profit health care delivery system by virtue of our geography and demographics.

In rural areas residents travel greater distances to access different points of the health care delivery system. Health care facilities in these areas are small and often provide limited services. Often, due to geographic distance, extreme weather conditions, environmental and climatic barriers, lack of public transportation, and challenging roads, rural residents may be limited/ prohibited from accessing health care services.

The difficulties of access to health care facilities may impair outcomes by increasing patients' physical and emotional stress, reducing the likelihood of seeking follow-up care, and limiting proximate family support.

Rural people are less likely to be covered by Medicaid benefit. Rural residents are less likely to have employer- provided health care coverage or prescription drug coverage.

Rural residents experience many difficulties in accessing health care services. These disadvantages result in higher morbidity and mortality rates compared to those of their urban counterparts. For all of these reasons, the Democratic Party of Lake County supports The Healthy California Act, SB 562.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Negrete'.

Carlos Negrete, Chair, Democratic Party of Lake County  
707.292.8692; [cxrlxsnxgrtx@gmail.com](mailto:cxrlxsnxgrtx@gmail.com)