

TALKING POINTS – AB 1400 (Kalra)

California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (CalCare)

Today's U.S. health care system is a complex, fragmented multi-payer system that still leaves wide gaps of coverage and poses significant issues of affordability. Despite health care spending in the U.S. far exceeding other high-income, industrialized countries that offer a publicly financed single-payer system, we consistently report worse health outcomes and disparities among vulnerable populations.

AB 1400 sets in motion a single-payer health care coverage system in California, called CalCare, for all residents, regardless of citizenship status. AB 1400 will help address the health care affordability and disparity crisis by creating:

- **Flexibility to access Medicare dollars** – By passing AB 1400, the state can position itself to seek consolidated federal waivers that will expand benefits, eliminate cost-sharing, consolidate health care dollars, and provide greater flexibility.
- **A framework for governance** – AB 1400 will establish a new coverage system called CalCare, which will establish a comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage program and a health care cost control system. CalCare will be set up as an independent public entity governed by a nine-member executive board with expertise in health care policy and delivery.
- **Access to care** – California is a diverse state – racially, ethnically, economically, and geographically – and vulnerable populations face greater health risks and have less access to safety net programs. CalCare will remove barriers to care, as well as support long-term services for people with disabilities and the elderly.
- **Wasted health care spending** – AB 1400 will simplify the health care payment system. It will also negotiate fair, adequate global budgets to hospitals and other providers to help contain costs by aligning health care payments with actual cost of care and eliminating waste in the system.
- **Two-year bill** – Although AB 1400 is not slated to move this year, the Labor movement is still strongly behind its eventual passage. We urge legislators and the Governor to pass this bill as soon as possible. Lives are at stake!

SM: OPEIU 29 AFL CIO

