

May 30, 2017

Senator Ricardo Lara
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 562 (Lara and Atkins) – The Californians For A Healthy California Act

Whereas, all residents of the state have a human right to health care, and universal access to reliable, comprehensive health care is necessary for a healthy, productive population; and

Whereas, those who cannot access needed health care may, as a result, be unable to maintain employment, contribute to the economy, learn in school, or live a full, dignified life; and

Whereas, California's present health care system creates insecurity for all, even those with health insurance, who suffer unpredictable coverage, cancellations, little choice of providers, decreased benefits, and increased premiums, co-pays, and deductibles; and

Whereas, rising health care costs, and cost shifting from insurance companies to patients are creating serious economic problems for employers and employees by undermining wages and pensions, pricing individual purchasers out of the market, escalating the number of uninsured and underinsured, and placing significant financial strain on public institutions; and

Whereas, a universal, single-payer health insurance system, with consolidated financing and an accountable public structure, has been predicted in numerous studies to result in greater efficiency, lower costs to businesses, individuals, and government; and

Whereas, previous efforts to reform our health care system, notably the Affordable Care Act, did not result in a universal, comprehensive and affordable health care system, and even these programs are now under attack; and

Whereas, it is imperative that California protect its citizens by establishing a truly universal comprehensive system, which controls costs, and with eligibility based on residency; and

Whereas, SB 562 is efficient, eliminating waste by consolidating the functions of many insurance companies into one comprehensive public plan, thus saving consumers and the state billions annually;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the El Cerrito Democratic Club supports universal access to health care for all Californians through SB562 (Lara/Atkins), the Californians For A Healthy California Act, and urges our legislative representatives to work for passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

President, El Cerrito Democratic Club