

To Healthy CA for All Commissioners:

I am one of the Californians lucky to have excellent health insurance, fully funded by the State of CA, during my employment and following my retirement from San Francisco State University. My excellent coverage has seen me through a spine fracture, breast cancer, and numerous issues related to aging. My husband is similarly lucky, to be married to a CA state employee with health care and dental benefits for our family.

But what about the people who did not work for the state? Or who did not receive health benefits through full-time employment? What about those people who work hard but can't afford private health insurance, even through the Affordable Care Act? What about the people who work in the fields, who clean people's homes, who struggle to make ends meet? Every day I meet homeless people, and I wonder what happens to them if they fall ill.

Life is not always fair...but health care for all should be a right, not just something for privileged people like me. I have traveled to other countries, and have found that many offer universal medical coverage. We do not have to invent the wheel! Not only do we have models that can show us how to do it, we know that providing universal healthcare is more efficient and cost effective than our current system...and universal government-funded insurance is THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

California can be the beacon for the nation...let's fund universal health care now.

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