

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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October 14, 2021

The Honorable Ash Kalra
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1400 (Kalra) Guaranteed Health Care for All - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in order to state our support for AB 1400 (Kalra), which will create the California Guaranteed Health Care for All program, or CalCare, to provide comprehensive universal single-payer health care coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.

The bill would provide that CalCare cover a wide range of medical benefits and other services and would incorporate the health care benefits and standards of other existing federal and state provisions, including the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, Medi-Cal, ancillary health care or social services covered by regional centers for persons with developmental disabilities, Knox-Keene, and the federal Medicare program. The bill would require the board to seek all necessary waivers, approvals, and agreements to allow various existing federal health care payments to be paid to CalCare, which would then assume responsibility for all benefits and services previously paid for with those funds.

Many low income residents of Santa Barbara County are struggling to afford medical care, and in result delaying treatment because of cost. AB 1400 will move health care services to one publicly run plan that that covers everyone who lives in California. Patients will have the ability to choose their providers without worrying about what their insurance will cover or if they are out of network. AB 1400 will consolidate and streamline access to care for patients and simplify the billing for hospitals and providers.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform which includes the Access to Quality Health Services Plank and the Health and Human Services Principle, which specifically states that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will support measures which establish, enhance or fund policies, programs, research, standards, educational material and public awareness campaigns that prevent disease promote wellness and ensure access to needed health care.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or jmcginty@countyofsb.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of
Supervisors