



CONSENT CALENDAR
April 11, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Taplin, Mayor Arreguin, Councilmember Bartlett,
Councilmember Harrison
Subject: Support for AB 1690 (Universal health care coverage).

RECOMMENDATION

Send a letter to Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) in support of AB 1690 (Universal health care coverage).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 1690 currently states: "It is the intent of the Legislature to guarantee accessible, affordable, equitable, and high-quality health care for all Californians through a comprehensive universal single-payer health care program that benefits every resident of the state."

Kalra introduced the previous effort for statewide single-payer as AB-1400, which failed to receive a floor vote in the 2021-2022 legislative session.¹ The bill is sponsored by the California Nurses Association.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Letter

¹ Koseff, A. (2022). Why single payer died in the California legislature, again. *CalMatters*. Retrieved from <https://calmatters.org/politics/2022/02/california-single-payer-legislature/>

The Honorable Ash Kalra
Member of the California State Assembly
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 1690: Universal health care coverage

Dear Assemblymember Kalra

The City Council of the City of Berkeley writes in strong support of AB 1690, which states the intent of the California state legislature to establish a single-payer healthcare system.

While the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) brought many improvements in health care and health care coverage, it still leaves many Californians without coverage or with inadequate coverage. Californians, as individuals, employers, and taxpayers have experienced a rise in the cost of healthcare and health care coverage in recent years, including rising premiums, deductibles, and copays, as well as restricted provider networks and high out-of-network charges. Businesses have also experienced increases in the costs of health care benefits for their employees, and many employers are shifting a larger share of the cost of coverage to their employees or dropping coverage entirely.

A universal single-payer healthcare system would consistently cover all Californians, because coverage is based on residency, not a person's changing income or employment status. It is more important than ever for a state like California, one of the wealthiest regions in the nation with the 4th highest GDP per capita in the world, to redistribute some of its prodigious wealth by taxing its highest earners in order to guarantee high-quality healthcare as a human right for all residents.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

City Council - City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia St
Berkeley, CA 94709