

California Senate Passes California Universal Health Care Act: SB 810

By Yolanda Knaak

While most of the nation is opposing Obama Care, the California State Senate quietly passes SB 810 a bill that imposes Single Payer Health Care for California. Very few Californians are aware of the bill which already passed the State Senate on January 28th, 2010. SB 810 prevents any health care service plan or health insurance policy except for the new California Health Insurance System Plan.

Most Californians know the state needs health care reform, but do we really want to be going to the government for health care? Most people avoid even going to the DMV or the Franchise Tax Board. This bill creates a massive new government bureaucracy. Let us be honest, what bureaucracy has been efficient or provided accountability? Let us ask the more important question, who is going to pay for it? Any government provision must be paid for by raising taxes or fees paid by employers. One common problem with socialized healthcare like Canada's or England's is that those needing elective surgery such as a total knee replacement, a total hip replacement or carpal tunnel surgery could be on a waiting list for 2 or 3 years before getting their surgery and sometimes necessary treatments, particularly cancer treatments are not provided at all. Economists are concerned that if SB 810 passes, businesses will exit the state and unemployment will skyrocket. Elderly under Medicare or a Medicare HMO are concerned that their benefits will be cut back in order to pay for healthcare for younger generations who may be considered more of a priority. SB 810 also provides unlimited government funded abortions which many Californians oppose.

If it passes the Assembly committees and the Assembly, it will then go to the governor's desk for his signature before passing. Remember that we have a representative government and our elected officials want to hear from their constituents. If you want to make your views known regarding California Universal Health Care Act SB 810, contact the California State Assembly Committee on Health: 916-319-2097 or 916-319-2075, committee chair, Dave Jones: 916-319-2009 and vice chair, Nathan Fletcher: 916-319-2075. The other committee members can be looked up on the internet. Other contacts are your Assembly Member, local Assembly Members are, District 9: Dave Jones, his phone # is 916-324-4676, and District 5: Roger Nielo, his phone # is 916-349-1995. If you want to contact Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, his phone # is: 916-445-2841, his fax # is 916-558-3160 and his address is: State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95841.

Most Californians agree that we need health care reform, but let us ask ourselves do we really want to give that much control to the government?

For questions or comments: Contact yolanda@skyq.com. About the author: Yolanda Knaak has a Masters Degree from UCLA in Nursing and works as a Home Health Nurse. She regularly offers her political commentary to MPG.