

Win Healthcare Equality for Asian & Pacific Islander Peoples

API for CalCare is a non-partisan organization of volunteers supporting the movement to pass CalCare, the "Medicare-for-All" bill for California: AB 1900.

API for CalCare studies and shares material about healthcare issues that affect Asians and Pacific Islanders in California.

We advocate to add API-relevant policy into CalCare, such as bilingual-bicultural support for patients and to address the specific healthcare needs of our diverse communities.

Many have a mistaken notion that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA) have no problems when it comes to healthcare. Unfortunately, the data confirms otherwise: Healthcare disparities for APIAs are numerous.

The diverse population of APIAs in CA is around 5.6 million, consisting of 42 distinct nationalities. Most are working-class and immigrant, with specific linguistic and cultural needs (60% of those 65 and older have limited English proficiency).

Since the pandemic began, Pacific Islanders in Long Beach are 7 times more likely to die due to COVID-19 than whites. The death rate for Samoans was more than double the California average.

96% of whites in CA have health insurance, but only 75% of Tongan do (i.e., 1 in 4 are uninsured). Others facing lower insurance rates include: Koreans (85%), Vietnamese (80%), Thai (79%) and Cambodians (78%).

APIAs have the lowest help-seeking rate for mental healthcare among any ethnic group. This is due to many systemic barriers, including language, lack of culturally relevant services, stigma and other factors.

We support all efforts that seek to mitigate healthcare disparities, but contend that these efforts should be fought for as subsets of more comprehensive single-payer reform.



Join us!

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Principles of Calcare

- Everybody in, regardless of race, sex, gender, country of origin, disability/migration/marital status, age or income
- Medical debt will no longer be the #1 cause of bankruptcy

- Health insurance no longer tied to employment
- No more health group health insurance plan hassles for small businesses and non-profits

- Includes medical, dental, hearing, vision, mental health, prescription drugs, long-term care for seniors and more

- Includes capital investment to directly address healthcare disparities. E.g. bilingual/bicultural healthcare will no longer be ignored and denied due to profit-motives of private insurers

- No more rising premiums, co-pays and deductibles

- No more tiered healthcare service quality

- No more private networks restricting choice of doctors



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