



CARA Alert – January 7, 2021

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

**2021 THE YEAR FOR IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL IN CALIFORNIA
SIGN THE PETITION AND PASS IT ON!**

<https://bit.ly/CARA-Healthcare>

Improved Medicare for All has been gaining greater traction over the years. And while the odds of passing legislation at the federal level improve every day, the more likely path is probably through the states. And in California we are in a unique position to lead the way. How is that?

- 1) During the primaries, California voted for a progressive candidate who made Medicare for All a campaign and election touchstone.
- 2) Exit polls show that a great majority of voters want single payer healthcare, specifically without the interference of insurance companies.
- 3) We have a governor who campaigned on the value of a single payer system.
- 4) The new national HHS nominee Xavier Becerra is a longtime single payer supporter. The head of HHS is the one who would grant the federal waivers for the states to implement state-single-payer systems.
- 5) Gov. Newsom requested the federal waivers from the Trump administration, so we are petitioning for him to ask the Biden administration for those same waivers.

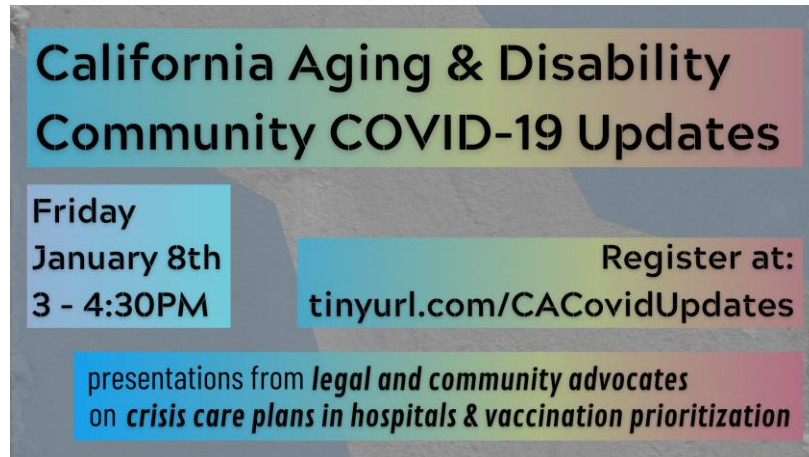
Our first step in winning Improved Medicare for All in California is getting Governor Newsom to request a waiver for California to develop a state based system.

Please sign the petition **<https://bit.ly/CARA-Healthcare>** and share it with friends, family, unions and community organizations. Spread it far and wide. The campaign for a Healthy California Now is aiming for a MILLION signatures.

Also, mark February 6th on your calendar for a statewide day of action with Single Payer CAR Caravans around the state. CARA will join with the nurses (CNA) and other activists in an action-day in Sacramento, Oakland, and Los Angeles. Additional car caravans will be hosted by volunteers in other parts of the state. Sign up to save the date and attend an event near you. We will send you all event details and exact locations in the near future. **<https://act.medicare4all.org/signup/calcare-kickoff/>**

IMPORTANT MEETING ON COVID FOR SENIORS and PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ON FRIDAY, JAN. 8TH AT 3PM

Register here: tinyurl.com/CACovidUpdates



The CARA CATs ARE THE PURRFECT WAY TO MAKE 2021 COUNT

There are many ways to get involved with the work of CARA. But the most powerful and collaborative way is to join one of the 17 CARA Action Teams (CATs) that meet monthly across the State. In 2021 the CATs will begin the year meeting via Zoom and Teleconference, until it is safe for us to return to our in person meetings. The January 2021 meetings will all be discussing the CARA organizing plan, some will have special guest speakers, and ALL of the CATs will be bringing us together after a holiday break to start the new year with hope, commitment and renewed advocacy. Please plan to attend the CAT meeting in your area. If you do not know when your local CAT meets, please go to the CARA website at www.californiaalliance.org/cara-action-teams/ to get more information, then call the CAT Chair to get the zoom/teleconference information.

**Governor to Release Master Plan on Aging – January 6, 2021
California Budget by January 10, 2021**

After months of deliberation, Governor Newsom plans to unveil his 10 year Master Plan on Aging on Wednesday, January 6th. The plan will be posted sometime tomorrow at: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-aging/>. We are hopeful that many of the recommendations from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and many CARA members will be incorporated into the Governors' plan. CARA also plans to work on legislative and administrative initiatives to begin implementation of some of our recommendations. Stay tuned for more information about these efforts.

And on to the State budget... To say that 2020 has been a difficult year is an understatement for sure. As we look toward 2021 with more hope for a vaccine to safely allow us to re-connect in person with our families, friends, colleagues, we must

also remember the very difficult lessons from the pandemic – lessons that were made harder because of needed support for programs and services that help keep seniors and people with disabilities living safely in their homes and communities.

We must continue to support and increase funding at the State level for community based services like In Home Supportive Services, para-transit, meal programs, adult day health care, mutli service senior programs, independent living centers, and more. These programs not only help people every day stay in their homes and avoid unnecessary institutionalization, but during COVID, have prevented many more infections and deaths from the virus. CARA will be reviewing the Governor’s budget proposal and participating in hearings to advocate for the programs and services that we want to support and enhance. We will need your help and advocacy to make sure that needs and priorities of seniors and people with disabilities are heard and front of mind.

Contact CARA:

MAIN OFFICE: 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086 / **TOLLFREE** 1-877-223-6107 / FAX: 510-663-4099/ www.californiaalliance.org

NORTH: 415-515-2156 / jreid.cara@gmail.com

CENTRAL VALLEY: 415-515-2156/ jreid.cara@gmail.com (Modesto – Fresno)
714-460-3542/ smeyer.cara@gmail.com for Bakersfield

SOUTH:

LA COUNTY: 917-424-3220/ jennichang.cara@gmail.com

ORANGE/SAN DIEGO/ INLAND EMPIRE: 714-460-3542/
smeyer.cara@gmail.com