



March 2, 2021

The Honorable Ash Kalra

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Kalra,

RE: AB 1400 (Kalra) – SUPPORT:

The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization representing 1 million seniors and their families strongly supports AB 1400.

When enacted, the Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (CalCare) will guarantee that every resident of California will receive comprehensive healthcare services. Individuals will have free choice of licensed health professionals and services. Covered benefits will include services to keep people healthy—mentally and physically— as well as those services that diagnose and treat diseases. In addition to emergency services, surgeries, and hospital stays, services such as long term supports and services, mental health, palliative care, durable medical equipment, dental, vision, hearing, podiatry, and hospice are covered. CalCare has been crafted to provide a single high standard of safe, therapeutic care for all California residents in a manner that is financially sustainable. For seniors, this will include the following provisions that they currently do not have:

This plan will allow participant to choose any provider. It will have no network restrictions, no more surprise bills, and no out-of-pocket costs for covered services. It eliminates premiums and co-pays for Medicare Part B, C, and D for services Medicare does not cover. It offers lower prescription drug costs for the state and a covered benefit for all residents.

There will be regional planning to reduce overlap and duplication of expensive equipment and facilities. The provider rates that will replace and improve upon existing rates will be negotiated to ensure access, cost control and high-value services. Finally, there will be cost-savings from reduced bureaucracy, no more insurance company runaround, and no more bill collectors.

*CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410/ Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086/ [www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)*

Diverse participants including ordinary citizens and representatives of labor and business, as well as various health care professionals and health policy experts will advise and help design the Healthy California program.

Our current health care system is broken. If we did not already know this, the pandemic has made this heartbreakingly clear. CARA believes that every California resident deserves guaranteed health care. This is what the original Medicare program was intended to do- we just never finished the job. Now we have an opportunity to establish an Improved Medicare for All system in California that will guarantee health care to everyone – from the cradle to the grave, while reducing the costs to individuals, business, and to local and state government. We can't afford not to pass AB 1400.

For these reasons, CARA urges support of AB 1400. We thank you for authoring this Legislation and look forward to working with you on its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

**Hene Kelly**  
**CARA Legislative Director**  
**415-533-5244**

*CARA/ 600 Grand Ave. #410/ Oakland, CA 94610/ 510-663-4086/ [www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org)*