

CARA Alert – August 30, 2021

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

400 Stories for \$400 Billion in HCBS funding Delivered to Speaker Pelosi

The action on August 27th was incredible!! It was so powerful to be together with CARA partners and allies to hear Pelosi's field rep, Kevin Ortiz say, with no hesitation "YES" when Sascha Bittner asked him: *I ask the Speaker to be our champion and ensure that the Build Back Better package is passed with the full \$400 billion for Home and Community Based Services. Can we count on the Speaker to make this happen?*

The action was led by CARA Board member Camille Christian and Executive Director of Senior and Disability Action Jessica Lehman. Many CARA members were at the event in San Francisco in person, and many more attended via Zoom. Even more of you shared your story, which was included in the giant book of stories we presented. You can read the many powerful and heartfelt stories by clicking on the [PDF here](#). If you missed the event, it was recorded and will be on our website at [2021 Forums – CARA \(californiaalliance.org\)](#).

CARA members have been busy visiting members of Congress this month – about ½ of the 53 member California Congressional delegation have held meetings and more are scheduled over the next couple of weeks. The request for \$400 billion in HCBS funding is one of our “ASKs” at these meetings. All 53 members will be sent the PDF story collection as a follow up to our action with Speaker Pelosi.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this event, telling your story, visiting your member of Congress and supporting the work of CARA and our ALLIES. Here's a photo from the August 27th action.



[Register Now](#)

Direct Contracting Entities: A Threat to Medicare and to Single Payer Special Presentation on September 23rd at 6pm PST

This webinar will be co-hosted by PNHP and National Single Payer, and co-sponsored by CARA, Public Citizen, Social Security Works, All Unions Committee for Single Payer, UAW Region 1A Retirees, Kentucky State AFL-CIO, Kentucky ARA, and Western PA Coalition for Single Payer Health Care (so far). Scheduled speakers include:

- Rep. Katie Porter, (D-Calif.), signatory to a [letter](#) written to HHS Secretary Becerra asking for the immediate halt to DCEs
- Dr. Ed Weisbart, Chair, PNHP-MO
- Trudy Lieberman, contributing editor, *Columbia Journalism Review*, and contributor to *Health News Review* and the Center for Health Journalism
- David Lipschutz, JD, Associate Director, Center for Medicare Advocacy

What are Direct Contracting Entities and why should we be concerned?

In 2020, the Trump Administration launched a new CMS experiment, the Global Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) model, that was designed to privatize traditional Medicare. GPDC transfers cost and care management to private for-profit insurer and investor contracting entities (DCEs). Under this model, **CMS could auto-assign more than 30 million beneficiaries who have chosen traditional Medicare into entities managed by private for-profit companies, without their understanding or consent.** Instead of halting this program, the Biden Administration has accelerated it, threatening the future of Medicare as we know it.

VOTE **NO** ON THE RECALL

CARA is opposed to the Recall!!!! It is an attack on our democracy, and a total waste of resources. Furthermore, we are making progress in moving senior focused funding, programs, policies and legislation forward with the current administration, and do not want to keep moving forward. Just Vote No on Question Number One and then you are DONE!!! CARA recruited 200 volunteers to write 100 postcards each – yes that’s 20,000 cards, to encourage senior voters to VOTE NO. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who helped. Way to Go – CARA TEAM!!

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday Oct. 26th (10am-2pm) and Wednesday, Oct. 27th (10am – 12:30pm) –
CARA Statewide Convention (Virtual). Speakers include Senator Padilla, Sec. of State
Weber, Attorney General Bonta, California Dept on Aging McCoy-Wade, and Governor
Newsom. Workshops, entertainment, games and more! **FREE.**

REGISTER HERE: <https://bit.ly/CARA18thConvention>

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