

CARA Alert – April 5, 2021

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

CARA STANDS WITH OUR API SISTERS AND BROTHERS

CARA is a caring community that embraces our shared values, our diversity, our ages and abilities, and our commitment to economic, social, and racial justice. We must call out acts of discrimination and racism whenever and wherever we see them. The latest acts of violence against Asians and Pacific Islanders are just a reminder of the racism that has been ingrained in our country's history – and we must stand together against it. It is time to educate ourselves and to act – against racism of any kind but especially at this moment, against the hateful attacks on our API sisters and brothers. Here are some tools to help each of us **Take a Stand** provided by API Legal Outreach in [English](#), [Japanese](#) and [Chinese](#).

LONG TERM CARE AND MEDICARE EXPANSION IN BIDEN/SANDERS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

President Biden introduced a \$2 trillion dollar plan to upgrade our nation's infrastructure while creating new jobs on Wednesday. The proposal includes funding to shore up the nation's aging roads, bridges, rail lines and electrical grids while boosting manufacturing, making key investments in elder care and housing, and creating hundreds of good paying jobs. It also calls on Congress to pass the PRO ACT, which makes it easier for workers to join or form a union.

Especially exciting is the American Jobs Plan includes around \$400 billion to expand home health care and services for seniors and people with disabilities and to increase wages and benefits for caregiving workers. If enacted, hundreds of thousands more Americans will receive long-term supports and services that they need in order to stay at home, rather than in institutions. The plan is paid for in part by increasing the corporate tax rate to 28% (to where it was before the 2017 Trump era corporate tax cuts).

Additionally, Senator Bernie Sanders, Chair of the Senate Budget committee says he intends to add a Medicare plan to American Jobs Act bill. It would require Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices with drug companies and to use the savings to lower Medicare's eligibility age from 65 to 55 or 60 years old and add coverage for dental, vision, and hearing. It's a step forward toward a true Medicare for All plan.

**CALL YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMEMBER & SENATORS FEINSTEIN AND PADILLA
ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT & MEDICARE EXPANSION**

CALL THE CAPITOL SWITCHBOARD THREE TIMES: (202) 224-3121

1 CALL – ASK FOR YOUR CONGRESSMEMBER

1 CALL – ASK FOR SENATOR FEINSTEIN

1 CALL – ASK FOR SENATOR PADILLA

**2021 THE YEAR FOR IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL SIGN THE
PETITION TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM 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. In California we are in a unique position to lead the way. 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.

AB 1400 – California Guaranteed Health Act (CalCare) Must be Heard!

On Friday, Feb. 19th, Assemblyman Kalra along with 19 other Assembly and Senate Members introduced AB 1400 – the California Guaranteed Health Act (single payer health care). The first hearing must take place in the Assembly Health Committee by the end of April in order to move this year. CARA has endorsed AB 1400 and will be organizing and educating our members and partners on why seniors should support it, and letting you know how you can get involved. If you would like someone from CARA to make a presentation about the CA Guaranteed Health Care Act, please contact us at cynthial.cara@gmail.com or call us toll free at 877-223-6107.

**CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA JAYAPAL INTRODUCE NEW
NATIONAL MEDICARE FOR ALL BILL – HR 1976**

Rep. Jayapal and over 113 other Congressmembers introduced a new, improved Medicare 4 All bill in Congress – HR 1976. Please look at the list of co-sponsors and if your Congressman is listed, call them to thank them (click on this link to read article and see list of co-sponsors: <https://jayapal.house.gov/2021/03/17/medicare-for-all/>). If your Congressman is not on the list, please call them and ask them to add their name as a co-sponsor.

CARA SUPPORTS HEALTH CARE FOR ALL – NOT A RECALL!!!

The CARA Board of Directors voted to oppose the recall effort of Governor Newsom being sponsored by the GOP. Especially at this moment, when our local communities, state and the nation are struggling to vaccinate everyone and build a social and economic future to take us out of this pandemic, we should be focused on efforts that will move us forward, not backward. The GOP's focus on tax breaks for the wealthy and against health care for all, a \$15 minimum wage, and climate justice (to name a few) are their rationale for a recall effort. We cannot let these harsh, unjust policies win the day. With so much at stake, CARA strongly opposes the proposed recall of Governor Newsom and urges our members NOT to sign any petition being circulated at this time. Should the recall effort make it to the ballot, we need to be prepared.

CARA IDENTIFIES PRIORITY BILLS FOR 2021-22

Every year CARA's legislative committee reviews bills brought to us by our affiliates, partner organizations, and legislators. CARA also sponsors bills on our own. We review the bills, determine our position and write letters to the authors stating our position. Then, we identify the bills that help move our priority issues (voted on by our members each year at our convention). Priority bills receive CARA's full attention: the Legislative Committee attends all hearings on the bills and we bring these to our CATs to educate and engage them in advocating with their state representatives on these bills. Here are the CARA Priority bills to date. For fact sheets, CARA letters, etc. go to the CARA website at www.californiaalliance.org.

AB 1400	Kalra	CA Guaranteed Health Care Act (CalCare)	Single-payer/Improved Medicare-for-All-type health plan covering all in California, regardless of income, employment, immigration status, race or gender, eliminates co-pays, covers long-term supports & services, addresses cost and health disparities.
AB 695	Arambula	HomeSAFE (funding for services to help folks get/stay housed)	Expands HomeSafe program, lowers age to 60 for Adult Protective Services (APS), increases funding for HomeSAFE and APS.
SB 260	Weiner	Corporate Climate Accountability Act	Requires publicly traded corporations doing business in California to publicly disclose their greenhouse gas emissions
SB 515/ AB 911	Pan/ Nazarian	LTSS infrastructure to create a benefit for all	Identical bills, Create a framework for creation of an LTSS benefit.
SB 650	Stern	Nursing home transparency and accountability	SB-650: Skilled Nursing Facility operators must file consolidated financial report including related parties.
AB 1502	Muratsuchi	Nursing home licensing	Prohibits an entity from operating a skilled nursing facility without first obtaining a license on its own behalf.

SAVE THESE DATES:

APRIL 23RD @ NOON – TRAINING: ADVOCATING WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

MAY 14TH @ NOON – TRAINING FOR MAY 21ST LOBBY DAY

MAY 21ST – CARA VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR.

CARA will be coordinating virtual meetings with all 120 state legislators on this date. If you would like to participate in a Zoom or teleconference meeting with your state Assemblymember or Senator, you can sign up by contacting caralobby@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 26th & 27th – CARA STATEWIDE CONVENTION (VIRTUALLY).

CARA will be sponsoring our 18th Annual Convention this year – virtually. The event will be held over 2 days – 4 hours on the first day and 2.5 hours on the 2nd day. Great speakers, workshops, election of officers, door drawing for great prizes, bingo, dancing, singing and more. Mark these dates in your calendar NOW. More information will be sent, and a registration link, as the program is confirmed.

TOO MANY FUNDRAISING LETTERS FROM THE ARA?

Several CARA members have expressed concern that they receive too much mail/email from the ARA asking for money. Yes, this is one of the major ways that the ARA raises much needed funds. But you can ask to be taken off their list if you do not want to receive their solicitations. CARA does not have anything to do with these fundraising requests, nor do we receive any funds from the ARA.

Contact CARA:

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