

LINCOLN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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3516 N. BROADWAY
LOS ANGELES, CA 90031

LINCOLNHEIGHTSNC.ORG

July 15, 2021

Council File CF 21-0002-S83 / AB 1400

Community Impact Statement

The Board Approves This Community Impact Statement Yea (x), Nay (x), Abstain (x) on July 15, 2021

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CIS in Support of CF 21-0002-S83/ AB 1400 (Kalra) / California Guaranteed Health Care for All Program (CalCare) / Universal Single-Payer Health Care Coverage / Health Care Cost Control System

Dear Hon. Council members,

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Supports the CalCare Resolution presented by Council Members Bonin and Raman on March 24, 2021. This bill would establish a single-payer health care system in California, that will ensure that all Californians, regardless of employment, income, immigration status, race, or gender, can get the health care they need, free at the point of service.

Lincoln Heights has the highest COVID-19 rate in the county. The majority of our community members are essential workers, with no other choice but to work and risk the health and safety of their families. Many of our families have lost their sole income providers. Our medical assisted living facility KEI AI had the highest death rate in the state. Meanwhile, a massive vaccination site occupied Lincoln Park, drawing a flood of infected people to our vulnerable community. Our community members were not able to access these vaccines until the very end of the pandemic. Our council member allowed a massive street food market go unchecked for all of 2020, this market drew hundreds of thousands of people to our community potentially infecting thousands of our inhabitants.

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Lincoln Heights is a community that desperately needs access to healthcare. Lincoln Heights is in the 98th-100th percentile of burdened communities according to the Cal EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's CalEnviroScreen; that includes, child mortality, low birthweight, asthma and cancer from pollution. The legacy of environmental racism in Lincoln Heights has affected generations of children; currently 92.4% of whom live below the federal poverty line and who have no other option than to breathe in the pollution blowing in from toxic brownfield construction sites across from their schools and play on hot asphalt in the streets, locked out of parks by private interest groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed how grossly flawed and inequitable our multi-payer health system is and how critical it is for all Californians to be guaranteed access to health care. An estimated 1 in 3 Angelenos has been infected with COVID, and low-income communities of color are disproportionately impacted, experiencing higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death. COVID has also exacerbated long-standing racial inequalities in the job market, which means that low-income communities of color have also been hardest hit with job losses during the pandemic. The fact that health insurance is tied to employment means that those most likely to get COVID are also those that are most likely to be without medical insurance. This has created a system where those that are most in need of health care are the least likely to seek it due to its costs, especially when they are already incredibly rent burdened. The inability to make rents combined with the inability to afford medical care has also been a major factor in the surge in the unhoused population across Los Angeles during the COVID-19 pandemic, which again disproportionately impacts low-income communities of color.

The Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council recommends that AB 1400/Cal Care be passed in order to:

- * Equitably and effectively address the health care burden of the Covid-19 crisis by providing comprehensive health care to every resident of California, without any cost sharing.
- * Guarantee health care be free at the point of service for every person in California, respectively, for all necessary medical care including prescription drugs; hospital, surgical, and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; reproductive care; dental and vision care; long-term care; and mental health care.

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- * Provide coverage without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors.
- * Establish state-wide comprehensive universal single-payer health care and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all residents of the state.
- * Guarantee that all residents of Lincoln Heights will be fully covered for health care without copays, deductibles, or other out-of-pocket costs.
- * Improve the quality of life for the residents of Lincoln Heights because they would be able to get the ongoing care they need, instead of waiting until they have a medical emergency that could upend their lives as well as further burden local resources.

Sincerely,

Sara Clendening

President

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council