



# BAY AREA LATINOS NEED HEALTHCARE REFORM NOW! VOTE 'AYE' ON AB X 1 1

**BACKGROUND:** California is in a healthcare crisis. With nearly 6.3 million throughout the state living without health insurance, many residents are just one emergency room visit away from financial ruin. Latinos in the state are uninsured at higher rates than any other group, comprising 57% of the uninsured. In fact, Latinos have the sad and unique distinction of being the ethnic group with the highest workforce participation rates, yet the lowest rates of health insurance coverage. By approaching healthcare reform in a way that covers all and is financially stable, California can go a long way in extending health insurance to the more than 6 million uninsured Californians.

## **THIS BILL WOULD:**

- Expand the Healthy Families program to ALL children up to 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPL) – not acting on children’s health insurance NOW could cause thousands of children to be cut from their existing health insurance
- Extend Medi-Cal to parents and caretaker relatives who earn up to 250% of FPL if they do not receive adequate coverage from an employer – with little or no cost sharing, depending on their income
- Eases and facilitates enrollment into public benefits programs
- Drastically expands the Early Access to Primary Care program up to 250% FPL for Californians who don’t qualify for state-subsidized coverage or have adequate employer-based coverage. EAPC will formally link beneficiaries to quality medical homes, providing preventing and interceptive health care
- Increase reimbursement rates to Medi-Cal providers, ensuring a strong and vibrant workforce to serve the needs of California’s newly insured
- Share the responsibility for covering 75% of the state’s uninsured population by including government, employers, healthcare providers, and consumers in the solution
- Provide exemptions, alternatives, and tax credits to consumers who are paying more than their fair share for coverage
- Hold the insurance industry accountable for providing equal access to health insurance and controlling their skyrocketing costs
- Charge the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board with creating health insurance plans that are comprehensive (at least Knox-Keene plus prescriptions), affordable, and not simply “catastrophic”
- Develop effective prevention and management programs for wellness and chronic conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure, which affect Latinos more prevalently than others

**NEED FOR THIS BILL:** Over half of the state’s uninsured are Latino and, the majority of that group are low-income. These are the groups who would benefit the most from this legislation. AB X 1 1 leverages our resources and brings millions of California’s uninsured into comprehensive, affordable health insurance. Our needs are clear. These are California’s most vulnerable. We can’t afford to wait any longer.

*Vote 'Aye' on AB X 1 1*

## **For more information, contact:**

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