

## An Open Letter to Assemblymember Jim Wood

Dear Assemblymember Wood,

As organizations and individuals, we've supported you over the years, and we appreciate what you've done for the residents of Assembly District 2 during your time in the California State Assembly.

At this critical moment in our state's history, with a pandemic underscoring the shortcomings of our current healthcare "system"—including its inequities and spiraling costs—we, your constituents, call on you to do something bold and vitally important for our community and all Californians. We urge you to use your considerable influence as Chair of the Assembly Health Committee and a member of Governor Newsom's Healthy California for All Commission to advance universal, single-payer healthcare in our state.

As you're well aware, AD 2 is predominantly rural, with large indigenous and Latinx populations, and overall it is less affluent than some other parts of the state. Your constituents are among those who are suffering the most under our current inequitable, overpriced, and underperforming system. In the recent [Community Voices survey](#) of Californians who are low income and predominantly from communities of color, there was overwhelming support for a single-payer healthcare system (with 65 percent in favor and just 21 percent opposed). That strong support has also been made clear in multiple polls of Democratic voters, with a [recent poll](#) showing 84 percent support here in our state.

Your community and your voters have your back to lead on this issue. And far more important, crafting a single-payer solution is the best way to fulfill the responsibility you have to your constituents struggling to access and pay for healthcare. Numerous [academic studies](#) as well as real-world examples from all over the globe have shown single-payer is the optimal approach for improving care while reining in cost.

Specifically, we urge you to work with Assemblymember Ash Kalra and other supporters of the CalCare bill (AB 1400) in the coming months to address questions of how California might best finance a single-payer system. Once the CalCare bill is reintroduced in the Assembly in January 2022, we ask you to take the lead in advancing it through your Health Committee and do all you can to help the bill pass the Assembly, move through the Senate, and land on the governor's desk.

As you know, Governor Newsom ran for office on the promise of bringing single-payer to our state, and the majority of California voters are eager to see that

happen. We're counting on legislative leaders like you to help Governor Newsom keep his promise.

Our state has faced many crises since you've been in office, and you've stepped up to address them and help your constituents. We appeal to that spirit of service now. Your leadership is needed to leverage your unique position in Sacramento to advance a single-payer healthcare system in our state. More than any other accomplishment you and others in the legislature might achieve in the course of your political careers, single-payer universal healthcare would do the most to protect the lives, improve the finances, and brighten the futures of Californians.

As you recently commented in a Healthy California for All Commission meeting, we need to push back against outside influences that are blocking reform and harming people's health. We agree, and we hope you'll stand strong against those influences, be they tobacco and soda companies or Big Pharma and health-insurance profiteers.

Sincerely,

***Political Organizations***

Cloverdale Democratic Club

Courage California

Green Party of Humboldt County

Humboldt County Democratic  
Central Committee

Humboldt Progressive Democrats

North Coast People's Alliance

Oakmont Democratic Club

Oakmont Progressives Club

Progressive Democrats of America-  
CA

Santa Rosa Democratic Club

Sonoma County Democratic Party

Sonoma County Latino Democratic  
Club

Sonoma Valley Democrats

Young Democrats of Humboldt  
County

***Community Organizations***

350 Humboldt

California Alliance of Retired  
Americans (CARA)

Cloverdale Indivisible

Cooperation Humboldt

Corazon Healdsburg

Healdsburg Progressive Alliance

Humboldt County Affordable  
Homeless Housing Alternatives

Indivisible Healdsburg

Indivisible Sonoma County

La Familia Sana

North Coast People's Alliance

Racial Justice Allies of Sonoma County

***Labor and Business Organizations***

California Nurses Association/  
National Nurses United

Graton Day Labor Center

Humboldt/Del Norte Central Labor Council

North Bay Jobs with Justice

North Bay Labor Council

North Coast Co-op

Santa Rosa Memorial Staff Nurses Association

SEIU 1021 Medicare for All Committee

***Healthcare Organizations***

Butte County Health Care Coalition

Health Care for All, California

Health Care for All, Humboldt

Healthcare for All Working Group, Sonoma County

Health Professionals for Equality and Community Empowerment (HPEACE)

Physicians for a National Health Plan, California

Physicians for a National Health Plan, Humboldt

***Individuals (organizations listed are included for identification purposes only)***

Fred Allebach, Sonoma Valley Housing Group

Dinah Bachrach, Santa Rosa, Marriage and Family Therapist

Elsbeth Benton, Santa Rosa Redwood Forest Friends Meeting

Bruce Berkowitz, Social Action Committee of Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa

Janice Cader Thompson, Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee

Robilyn Camacho, California Democratic Party, AD2 ADEM Delegate

Ruth Carter, Chair, California Democratic Party Senior Caucus

Cathy Chandler-Klein, Arcata, Marriage and Family Therapist

Caroline Connor, MD, Temple Beth El, Eureka

Ross Connors-Keith, Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist, McKinleyville

Jason Cunningham MD, CEO, West County Health Centers

Kayla Curto, McKinleyville, California Nurses Association

Emily Dalton, Pediatrician, Open Door, Eureka

Kathryn Donahue, RN, Member, California Nurses Association

Marsha Vas Dupre, Former Santa Rosa City Council Vice Mayor, SRJC Trustee

Ever Flores, Trustee for Area 1, Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education

Barbara Flynn, Santa Rosa Redwood Forest Friends Meeting

Glenn Glazer, Executive Board Member, California Democratic Party

Val Hinshaw, Member, Sonoma County Democratic Party and AD2 Delegate

Kathryn Howell, President, Santa Rosa Teachers Association

Julie Johnson, Radiologic Technologist, Providence Hospital

Leona Judson, League of Women Voters

Judy Kay, Social Action Committee of Congregation Shomrei Torah, Santa Rosa

Pete Loetterle, California Democratic Party, AD2 ADEM Delegate

Walt Maack, MD, Retired Medical Director, Healdsburg Hospital Emergency Dept.

Jamie McGovern, Arcata, California Mentor

Pam Mendelsohn, Health Care for All, Humboldt

David Monkawa, Co-Chair, Save Our Seniors Network

Chula Morel-Seytoux, Santa Rosa Redwood Forest Friends Meeting

Ruth Paine, Santa Rosa Redwood Forest Friends Meeting

Sandy Reynolds, District 4 Representative, Sonoma County Democratic Party

Helene Rouvier, Member, Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee

Rose Saint John, Guerneville, CA Alliance of Retired Americans

Charles Sharpe, Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Candace Simmons, Lifehouse Agency, Santa Rosa

James Stephenson, Eureka, Distinguished Engineer, Starburst Data

Pamela Swartz, Northern California Vice Chair, Progressive Caucus

Elizabeth Talbott, Treasurer, California Democratic Party Rural Caucus

Carol Taylor, Member, Credentials Committee, California Democratic Party

Jennifer Taylor, PhD, Arcata Counseling Services

Beverly Titus, National Union of Healthcare Workers

Elizabeth Welsh, California Democratic Party, AD2 ADEM Delegate

Terry Winter, RN, MPH, Co-chair, Healthcare for All Working Group

Ruth Witchey, Santa Rosa Redwood Forest Friends Meeting

***Individuals who signed on without a group affiliation***

David Anderson, MD, Healdsburg

Kim Bartlett, Vineburg

Tyra Benoit, Healdsburg

Emelia Berol, McKinleyville

Barbara Christwitz, Clearlake

Elizabeth Connors-Keith,  
McKinleyville

Candice Dahlstet, Santa Rosa

Sandy Dardenelle, McKinleyville

Jorge De Cecco, Ukiah

Raven Deerwater, Mendocino

Winchell Dillenbeck, McKinleyville

Margaret Emerson, Arcata

Charles Evans, MD, Healdsburg

Catlin Harvey, Willow Creek

Humnath Panta, Arcata

Judy Kay, Santa Rosa

Ginny Kelly, McKinleyville

Virginia Kelly, Santa Rosa

Gillian Kendall, Hidden Valley Lake

Laura Kimbro-Chechile, MD,  
Healdsburg

Paul Marguglio, MD, Healdsburg

Geoffrey Marsh, Santa Rosa

Katherine McNeil, Sebastopol

John Mihalik, MD, Healdsburg

Carol Mone, Trinidad

Karen Morgan, Santa Rosa

Walter Paniak, Arcata

Chris Panym, Graton

Douglas Pile, MD, Healdsburg

R. C. Jake Rutherford, MD, MPH

Diane Ryerson, Arcata

Carol Scher, Eureka

Charles Sharpe, Bayside

Asher Sheppard, Santa Rosa

Deborah Stamp, Redwood Valley

Patricia Taylor, Santa Rosa

Jean Wells, Trinidad

Clare Whitfield, Santa Rosa

Jane Williams, MD, Trinidad

Locke Wilson, MD, Healdsburg

**CC: Governor Gavin Newsom, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon**

