



“We are not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.”

-Jimmy Carter

Immigrants and Health Care Spending

- Contrary to many myths, most immigrants have health insurance coverage, 30% of immigrants use no health care at all in the course of a year, and foreign-born people in the United States are, on average, healthier and utilize less health care - about half of the health care per capita of U.S.-born persons - whether or not they have insurance (Passel et al, 2005).
- It is a myth that emergency department use by undocumented immigrants is what drives our health care costs. In fact, per-capita ER expenditures are lower for foreign-born adults than for native-born adults (Mohanty et al, 2005).
- If we cover all who live in California, and provide primary care in clinics and doctors' offices, we would spend far less than we are now. It is estimated that if every Californian got preventive care we could save \$3.4 billion dollars a year (Lewin Group, 2005).

The California Universal Health Care Act, Senate Bill 810



SB 810 is an improved “Medicare-For-All” style single-payer health care reform plan. It combines public financing with private health care delivery.

Eligibility will be based on physical presence and the intent to reside in California, instead of on employment, income, or legal status. No person in California will ever again lose his or her access to health care because of unaffordable premiums, changing or losing a job, their age, divorce, or a pre-existing medical condition.

Specifically, coverage includes hospital, medical, surgical, and mental health, dental and vision care, prescription drugs and medical equipment such as hearing aids, emergency care including ambulance, skilled nursing care after hospitalization, substance abuse recovery programs, health education and translation services, transportation needed to access covered services, diagnostic testing, and hospice care.

Not only is it good public health policy to insure the entire population, but it is also the right thing to do.

For more information visit www.cahpsa.org, call 510-665-8523, or email capa.fellow@gmail.com