



City of Albany

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June 7, 2011

Honorable Mark Leno, Senator
State Capitol, Room 4061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 810 (Leno) - Amended as of May 10, 2011

Dear Senator Leno:

The Albany City Council supports SB 810, the California Universal Healthcare Act, which would cover every Californian with comprehensive, affordable health insurance and allow every Californian to choose his or her own physician. As amended, the bill now reflects how the Federal Health Reform law, the Affordable Care Act, would affect the bill and allow for State innovation.

At some time each year, at least one in five Californians does not have health insurance. As health insurance costs skyrocket, employers are reducing coverage or dropping benefits altogether. Half of all bankruptcies in this country are related to medical costs and $\frac{3}{4}$ of those bankrupted families *had health insurance at the time they became ill or injured*. Average Californians can no longer rely on their health insurance when they become ill or injured.

The United States spends twice as much per person as other industrialized countries on health care, yet we are the only industrialized nation where people go bankrupt because of medical costs. We have fewer physicians per capita than many other industrialized countries, and fewer hospital visits. Our health care system ranks at the bottom of industrialized nations, according to the World Health Organization.

SB 810 will affordably cover every Californian with comprehensive benefits. Every Californian will be covered by a single plan that provides medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage, as well as hospitalization, emergency room care and transportation, laboratory work, skilled nursing care, mental health care, drug addiction rehabilitation, and chiropractic care.

The Albany City Council strongly supports SB 810.

Sincerely,

Farid Javandel
Mayor

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of a diverse community, and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.



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