

I've reached an age (71) where I, like so many other older people, need extensive dental work and hearing aids. Even with Medicare and a good supplemental plan, I find that my out-of-pocket expenses are shockingly high, even though these are conditions that can affect cardiovascular health or hasten social disengagement and decline. Some seniors travel to other countries for dental care, but many can't, and must simply endure missing teeth, bone loss and poor oral health.

We need a single-payer system that puts our money into health care, not into shareholder value or astronomical salaries or time-wasting paperwork designed to deny care. We need a health care system that emphasizes prevention over the more lucrative business of repair.

I therefore urge you to pass SB 1089, establishing a Governance Board to plan the implementation of the Universal Health Plan.

Thank you for your attention.