

# Join the Fight for a Patient Bill of Rights!



The Campaign for a Health California's Patient Bill of Rights (PBR) campaign will educate communities throughout the state about the problems created by the private insurance industry under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). The problems of high out-of-pocket costs and narrow networks that limit choice of providers can be solved by a single-payer system. Under the principle "Healthcare is a Human Right," the PBR campaign promotes legislative fixes that are a bridge to single payer: broadening Medi-Cal and healthcare access regardless of immigration status, ensuring patient safety regulations apply to outpatient care settings, holding hospitals accountable for charity care, establishing rate regulation and transparency for large groups are all part of the PRB legislative action.

## The Patient Bill of Rights

We Hereby Proclaim that Healthcare is a Human Right!

To secure that right, we demand that all Californians be guaranteed healthcare based on their health needs, not limited by ability to pay or restricted by their insurance company.

We assert that every California resident has the right:

1. To a single standard of excellence in high quality safe, therapeutic care that includes comprehensive preventative benefits.
2. To assure Californians have equal access to essential benefit coverage.
3. To be cared for by physicians, registered nurses, psychiatric and mental health professionals, and properly trained healthcare workers.
4. To access medically necessary care, including psychiatric care at the appropriate healthcare facility and with any healthcare provider in the State of California, without being subject to additional out-of-pocket costs.
5. To be admitted to the hospital quickly when in-patient care is needed.
6. To be cared for at a hospital until recovered sufficiently to be discharged.
7. To be protected from inappropriate observation (a halfway point between the emergency room and full inpatient admission), early discharge before full recovery, and inappropriate transfer from one hospital to another.
8. To receive the appropriate care for the severity of illness in the hospital or clinic, staffed sufficiently and regulated according to patient safety standards.
9. To medical privacy.
10. To transparency in insurance company rates and clinical practices.



# OVERVIEW: Patient Bill of Rights 2015 – 2016

## S.B. 4 (Lara) Health4All

We believe in everybody in, nobody out, but the current Affordable Care Act (ACA) excludes undocumented Californians. S.B. 4 takes important steps to include all Californians by removing barriers to Medi-Cal and allowing access to plans on the exchange (without subsidies). In addition to supporting S.B. 4, we also support a level playing field where ALL Californians have access to subsidies on the Exchange.

## S.B. 346 (Wieckowski) Charity Care

Back from last year's PBR, we again push to hold California

Nonprofit hospitals accountable for providing charity medical care to those most in need. Nonprofit hospitals receive over \$2 billion in public tax breaks, yet many provide only about 2.5% of operating costs as charity care to those who need it. This bill puts an end to this imbalance by setting a clear standard for charity care, instituting transparent reporting and penalties for non-reporting, and sets guidelines for true community benefits investment in vulnerable communities.

## S.B. 483 (Beall) Observation Unit Status

Hospitals are trying to skirt ACA readmission penalties by creating "outpatient observation units" that take advantage of lax staffing rules and often leave patients footing the bill that would otherwise have been covered if admitted to the hospital. S.B. 483 will end this practice and protect patients by requiring hospital admission, safe staffing levels, licensing and reporting of Observation unit activities.

## S.B. 546 (Leno) Justify Rates

Holds insurer's feet to the fire for skyrocketing premium increases for large group plans (50 or more workers). S.B. 546 extends the transparency that exists for small groups and individuals and takes it a step further and allows the denial of excessive rate hikes. This will protect millions of Californians and many CHC union affiliates who fight often double-digit increases year after year.

## What is the Campaign for a Healthy California?

Campaign for a Healthy California (CHC) is a coalition of organizations representing over one million Californians committed to winning single-payer healthcare for all. California has long been a leader in the single-payer movement putting bills on our governor's desk twice. Once again California can set the trend for the country by implementing a just and equitable healthcare system. Through our statewide legislative work and our extensive field program in regions throughout the state, the CHC is committed to building and broadening the movement that can make Improved Medicare for All a reality for all Californians.

**Sample support letters, action updates and other information available at the CHC. To get involved with Patient Bill of Rights Campaign or the CHC please contact us!**