



California is deliberating many legislative matters and policy issues concerning the types of health care plans that will carry us into the future. The policies we choose will shape our health outcomes for a generation.

Our faith statements on health must therefore reflect our key principles of: complete fairness for all, not just the few; the wholeness and harmony of life reflecting the body, mind, emotion, and spirit; an emphasis on healing the sick and preserving wellness in all; an emphasis on the glorious diversity of God's people and acknowledging their varying needs; responding to those in want with absolute compassion for equity in their care.

The practical goals we seek as part of health care plans include but are not limited to the following:

- ❖ Health care coverage must include as wide a universe as possible. To leave people uncovered is to risk not only our individual health from untreated diseases but our fiscal health from escalating costs and especially our moral health as a democratic and compassionate society.
- ❖ Health care coverage must emphasize treatment rather than exclusion. The goal of all health care plans must be to provide medical assistance, not cut spending.
- ❖ Health care insurance must be made affordable through rational administration, saving on wasteful paperwork and bureaucracy. Savings must be passed on to health care users.
- ❖ The state of California must use its buying power to help health care providers obtain pharmaceuticals and medical equipment at the lowest cost with savings passed onto those needing those resources.
- ❖ Health care itself must be made accessible through the expansion of public hospitals, clinics, and other resources.
- ❖ Health care must also be of the highest quality for all. A dual system of quality for the affluent and questionable care for the poor is unacceptable.
- ❖ Access to our widely-divergent immigrant populations must be assured and quality care enhanced through culturally- and linguistically-appropriate means.
- ❖ To assure equal care, health care provider reimbursements must be set much higher than current payments.
- ❖ Where private insurance persists, insurance companies must make every effort to cover all people in the state. The abandonment of entire geographic locations is utterly unacceptable.
- ❖ Health care coverage must focus on wellness as well as illness and must offer support for a healthy life for everyone, not just the few.