



# COALITION TO PROTECT ACCESS TO CARE



California's Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal, provides health insurance to **low-income children, families, people with disabilities, homeless and elderly populations**. More than 15 million Californians and nearly 50 percent of children get their healthcare through the Medi-Cal program, making it an essential program for preventive and routine care for kids.

The Coalition to Protect Access to Care, a coalition of doctors, healthcare workers, community health centers, Planned Parenthood, health plans and emergency responders, is supporting a proposed ballot measure to permanently use dedicated funding to support Medi-Cal providers such as hospitals, physicians, women's health and community clinics and health centers. These tax dollars will bring more federal funds back to California and improve access to critical healthcare services.

Specifically, the initiative would:



+ **Increase** funding for mental health programs that care for children and Medi-Cal patients



+ **Expand** access to healthcare for Medi-Cal patients, which will result in reduced emergency room usage, and shortened wait times for all Californians



+ **Enable** California to manufacture its own insulin and other prescription drugs for Californians at much lower prices than exist currently





For years, California has used a Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax — a tax on health insurance companies — to maximize federal funding and draw down billions of extra dollars, to support state programs. This initiative will ensure this much-needed revenue will continue, but permanently dedicate funding to Medi-Cal.

This initiative will increase reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal providers – some of which have not been increased in decades – and will **expand our state's education and training** to create a pipeline of healthcare providers including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and medical assistants. These actions will bring more providers to areas across California where they are needed most.

In addition to **funding mental health programs**, and **reducing the cost of prescription drugs**, the measure will ensure that Medi-Cal patients have more access to preventive care, which will **reduce expensive and timely emergency room usage**, which will benefit everyone.



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To learn more visit [www.AccessToHealthCareCA.com](http://www.AccessToHealthCareCA.com)



Ad paid for by Coalition to Protect Access to Healthcare, a coalition of doctors, non-profit community health centers, first responders, healthcare workers, hospitals, and community health plans

Ad Committee's Top Funders

Global Medical Response and its subsidiaries  
California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems  
California Dental Association  
Funding Details at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov)



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**El sistema de cuidado de salud en California está en crisis.** En demasiadas ciudades, se están cerrando hospitales. En los últimos años, más de 40 hospitales en California ya no ofrecen servicios de parto y embarazo. Los cuartos de emergencia están llenos y los pacientes no pueden ver al doctor o al especialista cuando lo necesitan.

La Coalición para Proteger el Acceso a la Atención Médica es una coalición de doctores, trabajadores de salud, centros de salud comunitarios, Planned Parenthood, planes de seguro médico y trabajadores que responden a emergencias están apoyando una medida que usará dinero permanentemente dedicado a ayudar a hospitales, clínicas, y oficinas médicas para que mantengan sus puertas abiertas.

Sin subir nuestros impuestos, esta medida recaudará más dinero del gobierno federal para California y ampliará el acceso al cuidado médico - sin aumentar nuestros impuestos. Específicamente, esta medida hará lo siguiente:



**+ Proveerá dinero para mantener las puertas abiertas de hospitales y oficinas médicas y ampliar el acceso al cuidado médico - sin aumentar nuestros impuestos.**

**+ Proveer más dinero para cuidado primario y cuidado de especialidad, salud mental, y el acceso al cuidado de emergencia, medicinas a un costo más cómodo, planeo familiar, cuidado dental y contratar más trabajadores de salud.**





**+ Asegurarse** que cada dólar que es para el cuidado de salud sea usado para cuidar al paciente. Requiere que el 99% del dinero recaudado sea usado en cuidado del paciente y limita los gastos administrativos a 1%.

**+ Aumentar** el entrenamiento para crear más oportunidades de trabajo en cuidado de salud, incluyendo más oportunidades de entrenamiento para todos interesados en estudiar enfermería, dentistas, asistentes médicos.



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## **TARGETED FACT SHEETS**

- [Clinics](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Physicians](#)
- [Dentists](#)
- [Kids](#)



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# MCO Frequently Asked Questions

## What does the Protect Access to Care Act Do?

Makes permanent the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax – a tax paid entirely by insurance companies, and matched with federal dollars – to fund investments in healthcare provided by doctors, health centers, Planned Parenthood, hospitals, emergency responders and healthcare workers. The measure will increase access to healthcare for more than 15 million Californians who rely on Medi-Cal for health insurance.

It guarantees billions in healthcare dollars are spent as they were intended – on treating patients, capping administrative costs at 1%, and ensuring the remaining 99% is spent directly on healthcare, including primary and specialty care, reproductive care, emergency rooms, and mental health and expanding the healthcare workforce in California.

The measure protects more than \$4.3 billion in healthcare spending including nearly \$2 billion for primary and specialty care for low-income patients annually, more than \$500 million for emergency care and transportation and nearly \$300 million in annual reproductive health and family planning funding.

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## Will it raise my taxes?

**No.** This initiative does not raise taxes. It simply maintains an existing healthcare tax that is charged to the plans that participate in Medi-Cal and has existed for many years in California.

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## Will it raise my health insurance premium?

**No.** There have been independent actuarial analyses of this tax and its effect on health insurance premiums. They confirm that the measure will not have a direct impact on healthcare premiums in California.

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## Why do we have to do this with a ballot initiative?

Previously, revenues have been directed to the state's General Fund and used for various purposes. This ballot measure is needed to protect future funds from politicians and ensure that taxes on healthcare companies are used as they were intended – to increase access to patient care. This measure protects existing healthcare tax revenues from politicians so they can't spend the money on other pet projects.





## **How will this help our healthcare system?**

By ensuring that billions in healthcare taxes are spent as they were intended – to expand and improve patient care. Will provide stability for the Medi-Cal system and for physicians, dentists and other providers to take care of low-income patients. Under the current system, which can lead to massive funding swings from year to year, many doctors have been wary of participating in the Medi-Cal program for fear of future cuts.

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## **How will this help Emergency Room wait times?**

Under the initiative, more than \$500 million will be used to stabilize emergency departments, including funding for emergency physicians and emergency medical transportation. Emergency departments have become overcrowded because patients cannot receive timely care from their primary care provider or specialist. This measure will help alleviate emergency room wait times by expanding primary care options for low-income patients. More preventive care will keep people out of emergency rooms, and more access to care will allow patients to turn to primary care physicians or other professionals instead of heading straight to the emergency room.

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## **How will this impact mental healthcare services?**

The measure allocates up to \$200 million annually to improve access to mental healthcare, specifically around increasing our state's capacity for inpatient psychiatric services.

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## **Is this about increasing healthcare for undocumented immigrants?**

Over the last decade, California has significantly expanded Medi-Cal coverage. We added millions of single childless adults to the system with the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The state has also made it easier for people to enroll in Medi-Cal, eliminating asset tests for recipients, and providing coverage to all residents regardless of immigration status. This measure does nothing to alter Medi-Cal eligibility in any way.


But these expansions of eligibility have put more pressure on Medi-Cal provider networks. With more patients in the system, it can be difficult for patients to get an appointment to see a doctor, dentist or care provider they need.

This measure will provide stability for those who treat Medi-Cal patients, increasing the number of people treating Medi-Cal patients, which will make it easier for those patients to get the healthcare they need.

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## **Hasn't the Biden Administration signaled recently they will reduce the amount of MCO dollars states can collect?**

Medicaid is a state/federal program and states have a variety of ways to provide their share of the funding. The MCO tax is one such method and has been in place for almost 20 years.



Reducing the amount of money states can collect from MCOs under Medicaid would represent a significant shift in federal policy.

While we can't guess what the federal government will do in the future, the initiative has mechanisms in place to adjust the tax to changing federal rules.

## Doctors are already rich. Why do they need more money?

Our current healthcare system effectively punishes doctors for treating low-income patients. Payments to physicians and dentists treating Medi-Cal patients are made by the government, and those reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal providers have remained stagnant for more than a decade - and for some - more than 25 years. These low reimbursement rates coupled with the rising cost of inflation have led many providers to see no or very few patients on Medi-Cal.

These low payments have created havoc in our healthcare system, leading to hospitals facing closure and physicians having to make the difficult decision not to take on new patients.

This will stabilize Medi-Cal reimbursement rates to ensure more doctors, dentists and other professionals are available to treat and care for low-income patients.



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# **SAMPLE NEWSLETTER**



## **Healthcare Coalition Submits Signatures to Qualify New Ballot Measure to Protect Healthcare Access and Funding**

California's healthcare system is in crisis. In rural and urban communities alike, hospitals are closing, physician offices are having to shut their doors, dentists are unable to take on new patients and community clinics are struggling to meet the needs of the patients who rely on them. In recent years, more than 40 California hospitals have stopped offering labor and delivery services. Emergency rooms are overrun. Patients cannot get in to see a doctor or specialist when they need to.

The Coalition to Protect Access to Care, a group of physicians, healthcare workers, emergency responders, hospitals, health plans, community health centers and more, is sponsoring a measure on the November 2024 ballot to address California's healthcare crisis because the time to act is now.

That's why **<ORGANIZATION>** is proud to join the coalition and is asking for your commitment to vote YES in November!

The Protect Access to Care Act will protect existing healthcare funds from politicians and require them to be spent as they were intended – to keep hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices open, and expand access to healthcare.

### **This initiative will:**

- Protect funds to keep hospitals and doctors' offices open, and expand access to healthcare – without raising taxes.
- Provide more funding for primary and specialty care, mental health, expanded emergency room access, affordable prescription drugs, family planning, and training and hiring more healthcare workers.



- Ensure that healthcare dollars are actually spent on patient care, requiring 99% of the money raised to go to patient care while ensuring administrative expenses are limited to 1%.
- Require annual audits to ensure the funds are not being misused by insurance companies.

To find out more about the Protect Access to Care Act, and what you can do to help, go to [accesstohealthcareca.com](https://www.accesstohealthcareca.com).

# **SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS**



## SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

### Instagram/Facebook Posts

#### Post 1:



[Download here](#)

#### **Caption:**

*We are proud to announce our membership in the Coalition to Protect Access to Care! Together, we are dedicated to protecting and expanding healthcare access for every Californian. Stand with us to ensure a healthier future. 🤝 #ProtectAccessToCare*

#### Post 2:



[Download here](#)

#### **Caption:**

*Big steps forward! 🎉 As members of the Coalition to Protect Access to Care, we are more committed than ever to keeping our community healthy and thriving. This November, help us protect what matters most. Vote YES on the Protect Access to Care Act! 🗳️ #ProtectAccessToCare*



### **Post 3:**



[Download here](#)

### **Caption:**

*Here's what the Protect Access to Care Act will do for Californians:*

- ✓ Keep hospitals & clinics open
- ✓ Expand access to healthcare
- ✓ More funding for mental health & emergency services

*Let's make it happen! Vote YES this November. #ProtectAccessToCare*

## **Twitter/X Posts**

### **Post 1:**

🔥 Exciting News! 🔥 We've officially joined the Coalition to Protect Access to Care to tackle California's healthcare crisis head-on! Join us in voting YES this November to ensure our hospitals and clinics stay open and accessible. #ProtectAccessToCare

### **Post 2:**

*Here's what the Protect Access to Care Act will do for Californians:*

- ✓ Keep hospitals & clinics open
- ✓ Expand access to healthcare
- ✓ More funding for mental health & emergency services

*Let's make it happen! Vote YES this November. #ProtectAccessToCare*

### **Post 3:**

*Did you know over 40 hospitals in California have stopped offering labor and delivery services? It's time for change. That's why we're joining the Protect Access to Care Coalition. Help us secure necessary healthcare funding this November. #ProtectAccessToCare*