

I've reached an age (71) where I, like so many other older people, need hearing aids and extensive dental work. Even with Medicare and a good supplemental plan, I find that my out-of-pocket expenses are shockingly high, though these are conditions that can affect cardiovascular health and 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 hearing.

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 SB704, establishing a Governance Board to plan the implementation of the Universal Health Plan.

Thank you for your attention.