



ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

**Monique Limón**  
DISTRICT 37



# Universal Healthcare

## SB 562

SB 562 would establish the Healthy California program, which would aim to provide comprehensive universal single payer health care coverage system for all California residents. Language in the bill prohibits it from becoming operative until the date the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notification that he or she has determined that the Healthy California Trust Fund has revenues to fund the costs of implementing this bill.



## Next Steps for SB 562

SB 562 is eligible to be heard in 2018, but in the meantime, the Assembly has activated the Select Committee on Healthcare Delivery Systems and Universal Coverage, which will conduct public hearings at the State Capitol to determine a pathway to successfully transition to a new system without jeopardizing the treatment of patients in the process.

The Assembly Select Committee on Health Care Delivery Systems and Universal Coverage will hold ongoing hearings beginning in the legislative interim in the Capitol in order to develop plans for achieving universal health care in California.

## My Position on Healthcare

I believe that healthcare is a human right. It is the foundation of our lives and our communities. I saw this firsthand in my first job with the Public Health Department, and later in my roles as a school board member and working with students and their families—good health and good healthcare are absolutely vital.

SB 562 never came before me for a vote in the Assembly, so I was not able to cast a vote for it. I support universal healthcare, single-payer, and Medicare-for-all models of healthcare delivery, but it is important we create a system that fits the needs of a state as big and diverse as California. There are more than 60 countries in the world with universal healthcare—no two systems are the same.

## What I am Doing to Improve the Healthcare for All Californians

As a Member of the Assembly Health Committee, I have supported several health bills with specified content that move us toward more access and a more transparent system. I voted for SB 17 which requires drug manufacturers and health plans to be more transparent and open about prescription drug pricing. I supported the Protection of Choice for Family Planning Act; ensuring Medi-Cal patients have the ability to choose their family planning providers.



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## Other Attempts

### at Universal Healthcare

Since 2003, California has made at least five legislative attempts to create a universal or single payer healthcare system—in 2011, 2009, 2003, and twice in 2007. Each one has been unsuccessful, for different reasons each time.

In order for a measure to be successful, we need the input and collaboration of many groups, including the Assembly, Senate, and Governor.

## Contacting My Office

Your opinions and thoughts are valuable in helping me make decisions on legislation. I take your remarks into consideration when I analyze bills that comes before the Assembly. Please continue to submit your comments via the contact section on my website.

As always, if you need assistance with a state agency or if you would like to invite me to a community event, please do not hesitate to contact me at my district office by calling (805) 564-1649.

For updates on my work at the Capitol and around the district, follow me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @AsmMoniqueLimon.

### District Office

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## What Still Needs to Be Addressed in SB 562

- SB 562 currently does not have a financing mechanism and according to the author's office is estimated to cost \$400 billion, approximately three times the current budget of the state.
- The Gann Limit, approved by voters in 1979, limits spending by the state government on programs based on a calculation on cost of living and other factors. A constitutional amendment would be needed to change this limit and implement SB 562.
- The Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee for K-14 education, also passed by the voters, sets the annual education funding levels (approximately 45% of the state's total budget). A constitutional amendment would also be needed to waive this requirement.
- The study in support of SB 562 relies heavily on the current President granting CA a federal waiver to utilize Medicare and Medicaid dollars to pay for over half of the costs of single-payer. We need a solution that does not rely on uncertain federal funding.



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