



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

For Immediate Release:
March 10, 2009

Contact: Douglas MacLean
(916) 319-2016

Swanson Joins Broad Coalition In Support Of Universal Healthcare Legislation

(Sacramento) – Assemblymember Sandré Swanson (D-Alameda) yesterday joined fellow legislators, advocates, and community members at a press conference where Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) unveiled SB 810, a bill that would implement a state-wide single payer health insurance system.

The bill is nearly identical to last year's SB 840, which was championed by then-Senator Sheila Kuehl.

"As a 30 year advocate for universal health coverage, I deeply appreciate that President Obama has put healthcare reform on the front burner, and I look forward to doing our part to help make those reforms a reality. At the same time, with the exploding cost of health care, and with more and more people losing their coverage as they lose their jobs, it is imperative that California addresses this crisis as expeditiously as possible. Single payer health care is the best choice at the state level, and I am proud to support SB 810, which will make such a system a reality in our state," announced Assemblymember Swanson.

Under SB 810, coverage will be based on residency, as opposed to employment or income. Significantly, this system will do away the practice of disqualification of care based on prior medical conditions. Coverage under SB 810 includes all care prescribed by a patient's healthcare provider that meets accepted standards of care and practice, and residents will continue to be able to choose their provider at will. Funding for the program will come from savings realized from the consolidation of the many functions that insurance companies and third parties currently carry out. The bill will also enable California to use the combined purchasing power of its citizens to buy prescription drugs and durable medical equipment at significantly discounted prices, saving the state an estimated \$5.2 billion in the first year.

"The number one cause of bankruptcy in America is medical expenses. We need a system that will cut out the middleman, save money, and extend full coverage to every individual in our state. The single payer program outlined in SB 810 is an important step in that direction, and will not only help cover every citizen in the state, but will help speed our economic recovery as well," concluded Assemblymember Swanson.

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Capitol: State Capitol - P.O. Box 942849 - Sacramento, CA 94249-0016 - **Tel:** (916) 319-2016 - **Fax:** (916) 319-2116
District: 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2204 - Oakland, CA 94612 - **Tel:** (510) 286-1670 - **Fax:** (510) 286-1888