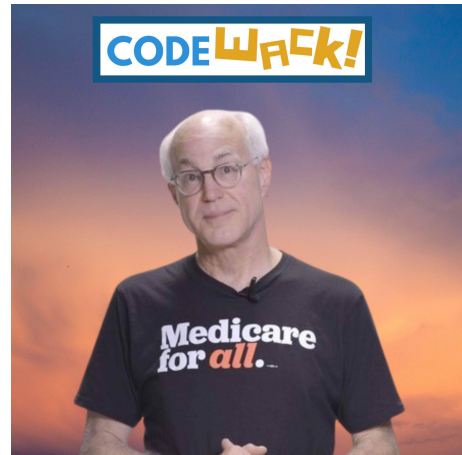


"A New Day" for California Health Care?



IN THIS EPISODE

Is California finally getting serious about fixing our health care? On April 25, 2022, a major report was issued on California's fragmented and uber-expensive healthcare system. Who's behind the report? What were its conclusions and recommendations? *And how much money can Californians actually save?* Get these answers and more!

Join host Brenda Gazzar and guest Michael Lighty, president of [Healthy California Now](#), to get the facts about Governor Gavin Newsom's [Healthy California for All Commission](#) and its new [report on single-payer health care](#) in the Golden State.

SHOW NOTES

WE DISCUSS

Health insurance keeps getting more expensive. In response, Governor Newsom convened a commission. What was the point?

“...the point was really to bring together a diverse set of experts and stakeholders, advocates, folks engaged in health policy and engaged in delivery of health services, to come up with a plan for how we get from here to there. And the “there,” of course, is guaranteed health care for all Californians ...The idea being that a diverse group of experts consider this issue, they come up with a good plan and analysis of where things are and how to move forward. *And that's what happened.* It's quite an extraordinary achievement that such a diverse group did come to a consensus in favor of unified financing and utilized some analysis that was very compelling...” – **Michael Lighty**

So, bottom line - how much money and how many lives did the commission conclude unified financing can save our state?

“...California can save up to \$500 billion dollars, *a half a trillion dollars over the next 10 years*, if they adopt a unified financing system. [We] can save 4,000 lives or more annually and can address the inequities that have been exposed so thoroughly by the pandemic...if we don't do this, we're going to spend another \$158 billion dollars more into 2031...” – **Michael Lighty**

Were the commissioners already slanted toward single-payer?

“Ah, no. The reality is that some of these folks are very invested and have made careers out of either the status quo or tweaking the status quo. And so the truth is that this was a group, going in, that was by no means inclined to adopt a consensus approach in favor of unified financing.” – **Michael Lighty**

Is this report going to have any impact? What's the next step?

“...this is not a report that's going to sit on the shelf. It's intended to be implemented to promote action and to do so immediately. And I think that the key next step is...engagement with the federal government led by Governor Newsom.” – **Michael Lighty**

Helpful Links

[Healthy California for All Commission](#)

[California Can Save As Much As \\$500 billion In Healthcare Costs Over the Next Decade](#)

Healthy California Now

[AB 1400, California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act](#)

[Analysis: It's Time to End the Racially Unjust Medical Debt Crisis](#)

California Health Report

[Stanford study finds medical debt is a double whammy for the poor](#)

Stanford News

[The Staggering Costs of Health Insurance “Sludge”](#)

Stanford Graduate School of Business

Episode Transcript

Read the episode [transcript](#).

Guest Biography

Michael Lighty, President, Healthy California Now, has organized, advocated and developed policy for single-payer, Medicare for All nationally and in California for over 30 years.

He is a founding Fellow of the Sanders Institute, and most recently, he was the Healthcare Constituency Director for Bernie 2020.

Formerly he was director of public policy for the California Nurses Association/ National Nurses United. He was lead policy analyst, a leader of Campaign for a Healthy California and testified on behalf of the single-payer bill, SB 562.

Get Involved / Take Action

[Let Governor Newsom know](#) that you support unified financing, single-payer health care in California.

Tell your **[state senator and assembly member](#)** to work with the governor to save California \$500 billion in healthcare costs over the next 10 years!

[Join Healthy California Now](#) - a coalition working toward a California single-payer system. Individual and organizational memberships available.

[Subscribe to HEAL California](#) for health policy news with a California focus

[Join Health Care for All California](#) to keep up with local actions to support California single-payer health care.

[Join Physicians for a National Health Program](#) (PNHP) to support a national campaign to improve and expand Medicare to all residents of the U.S.