



Gray Panthers Takes on the Healthcare Crisis in America!

Who Are the Gray Panthers?

Gray Panthers was founded by Maggie Kuhn in 1970 with a handful of people dedicated to social change. We are now nationwide! We welcome activists of all ages to work with us on tough problems like healthcare, which affect all generations.



Maggie Kuhn founder, in 1970

How are we involved?

Gray Panthers was an original member of UHCAN, the Universal Health Care Action Network (<http://www.uhcan.org/>), formed in 1992, dedicated to the proposition that **healthcare is a right, not a privilege**. We network to bring about changes through education and activism. We testify before local, state and federal legislative bodies, get petitions signed, and belong to local task forces. We sponsor educational seminars and presentations, and we write letters, etc., supported only by our dues.

Gray Panthers Supports California's SB 840, Single-Payer Healthcare!

- **Security** - All California residents are covered for life.
- **Choice** - The freedom to choose your own medical provider. Delivery of care will continue as now to be private and public.
- **Comprehensive Benefits** - Includes all care prescribed by a patient's health care provider, including hospital, medical, surgical, mental health; dental and vision care; prescription drugs and medical equipments, diagnostic testing, hospice care and more.
- **High Quality** - The plan invests in needed health care infrastructure such as electronic claims and reimbursement systems and statewide medical databases that improve health care quality.
- **Efficient Administration** - One comprehensive insurance plan saves the state, patients and providers billions of dollars each year.
- **Shared Responsibility** - Payment of an affordable premium by employers, employees and individuals supports the health care system we all need at some time.
- **Fair Reimbursement** - Providers receive fair and full compensation for all their services.
- **Cost Controls** - Health care costs are controlled by efficient administration, bulk purchases, etc.

We Care About Uninsured Americans!

- There are 41 million uninsured nationally, and 7 million Californians, most in working families.
- Why are these numbers growing?
 - Companies are reducing or eliminating benefits to workers and retirees to save money
 - The cost of private insurance impossible for many
 - The cost of COBRA is ballooning (\$1200 for a family of three)

Why is Being Uninsured So Dire?

- Overburdened and underfunded hospital emergency rooms are shutting down
- Doctors don't always take cash patients
- Costs for cash patients are way higher than reimbursements to insurance companies
- Private insurance is denied for prior conditions
- Many people let conditions worsen till they are much sicker, sending them to nursing homes
- 50% of bankruptcies are due to medical expenses
- Parents do without care to afford paying for their children

Medicare Part D Must Be Overhauled!

- Allow seniors to receive prescription drugs directly from traditional Medicare, not through an intermediary insurance company. This would offer a simple, one step plan with affordable drugs.
- The benefit should be available *without penalties* to all Medicare beneficiaries.
- It must have low cost and affordable premiums, co-payments, and caps.
- Eliminate the Doughnut Hole, or at least waive premiums while you're in the hole.
- Count ALL drug costs incurred in the donut hole, including certain over-the-counter meds, not just expenses for those on the insurance plan's formulary, provided by an in-network pharmacy. Every out-of-pocket cost should count towards catastrophic coverage.

For more details on Legislative issues, go to our website, www.gpcal.org

This Healthcare Train Wreck Comes in Many Forms!

- Too many uninsured under 65)
- Continued attempts to slash \$\$ for healthcare
- Delay in fixing Medicare Part D
- Medicare Part D moves toward privatization
- Ensuring real drug testing and accurate drug research
- Need for standardized drug labels
- People overwhelmed by too many choices
- A solution for California: Single Payer Plan (SB 840)
- A *really* bad idea: Health Savings Accounts (HSA's)

Have Presentation, Will Travel! Please help us help our seniors!

Contact us and we'll help educate your group about the coming crisis in American Healthcare. We'll provide a presentation, handouts, and suggested actions to a group of your choice, at *no cost*. Contact Margie Metzler, (916) 921-5008 or margiemetz@hotmail.com.

Or visit us at

www.gpcal.org/indexproj.htm.

Gray Panthers
P.O. Box 19438
Sacramento, CA 95819

GRAY PANTHERS
California says:

**“There is a
Healthcare Train
Wreck Ahead!”**



**For more information or
to schedule a free
presentation:**

**Contact Margie Metzler
(916) 921-5008**

margiemetz@hotmail.com

Website: www.gpcal.org

This program operates under a grant
from the California Wellness Foundation
(<http://www.tcwf.org/>)

