

**DAN LEAHY**  
**FOR STATE ASSEMBLY**  
*"A new voice, a better choice."*

# HEALTHCARE

## OVERVIEW

### ***Healthcare Coverage for all Californians***

My plan focuses on providing affordable coverage for all Californians by allowing people lacking coverage to purchase from the State.

### ***Contain Healthcare Costs***

Not enough has been done to keep in check the high costs of healthcare coverage. We need to require justification for rate increases.

### ***Increase our Prevention Efforts***

We need to do more in preparing our young people with the tools they need to manage their health and diet.

## THE PROBLEM

### ***Millions of People in California are Uninsured***

Over 6 million California residents lack medical coverage. Uninsured people who have an illness or accident rely on emergency room care which costs much more than other urgent and preventative care would. People without insurance inevitably pass those costs to taxpayers and cause increases to premiums to cover the unpaid liabilities.

### ***Costs of Providing Coverage are Increasing Unchecked***

The cost of health care premiums has increased by double digits since 2000. It now costs nearly \$12,000 to provide healthcare to the average family in California. Increasing costs not only hurt families but businesses that provide coverage for their employees.

### ***Not Enough Effort on Prevention Efforts***

California spends very little on prevention measures which would significantly decrease our overall health spending in California. By not focusing on prevention efforts, costs will continue to soar treating preventable diseases and illness.

### ***Childhood Obesity and Diabetes Becoming Epidemics***

In California nearly 30% of kids are considered obese. Children who become obese at a young age are more likely to be obese as adults. Obesity is quickly becoming the greatest health risk to our children.

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#### MY PLAN

##### ***Make Health Coverage Available to All***

My plan makes healthcare coverage available and affordable to all Californians and allows people of all income levels afford healthcare coverage. My plan would create Cal GAP coverage and would have the following features:

- ✓ Guaranteed coverage- no one would be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions.
- ✓ All-inclusive care- including regular medical services, preventative treatment, maternity and mental health services.
- ✓ Affordable- all participants would be able to afford coverage under this plan.
- ✓ Subsidies- low income families and individuals would qualify for premium subsidies depending income sand number of family members.
- ✓ Easy enrollment, simple paperwork and application- one application will determine which programs you qualify for and will have results of your application within minutes of applying.

##### ***Stop Unjustified Premium Increases***

Assembly member Dave Jones (Sacramento-D) introduced AB 1554 which, if passed, requires health plans to get authorization to increase premiums. I fully support this plan and will work to get this bill passed when elected to the Assembly. We also need to make sure that health insurers are not over charging for procedures and driving up costs.

##### ***Lower Prescription Drug Costs***

Create a statewide program to help low income families and seniors afford their prescription drugs. By using the State of California's purchasing power we can negotiate with drug companies to get better prices for the prescriptions that people need.

##### ***Increasing Prevention Efforts Statewide***

Empower the newly created Department of Public Health to create a statewide Chronic Disease Prevention Plan.

##### ***Establish Nutrition and Prevention Programs in Schools***

I would also increase prevention efforts in our schools by requiring time be spent educating our kids about health nutritional choices and increasing the amount of physical education