

I am writing to support the Senate Bill 842 that seeks to provide a public option for health care. I do not believe that a country that calls itself civilized can justify treating healthcare as a commodity that can be played with and that brings enormous profit to those players. Healthcare is NOT a luxury nor should it be considered a privilege. It is a right as much as clean air and clean water, and it is high time we gave this aspect of our lives the place it deserves: Affordability and access for all. If this means subsidizing it for many, then either raise the minimum wage to a living wage, or pay the difference (or likely both!), but no-one should ever be without healthcare coverage.

I would like to also expand the traditional understanding of healthcare: This means the health of our eyes, our teeth, and our hearing, and very importantly, mental health. None of these should ever be considered elective types of health treatment. One only knows too well when they have suffered from less than optimal levels of functioning in any of these areas that life can be extremely challenging, so please let us include these four areas to our definition and coverage of healthcare.

Thank you,

Stephanie Bahramian