

Towards Universal Health Care Coverage



1883: Germany's Health Insurance Bill of 1883 passed by Otto von Bismarck forms the first steps towards the first universal health insurance program in the world.



'30s: The Committee on the Cost of Medical Care (CCMC) is created as a privately-funded organization that studies ways to reduce medical costs. They recommended that the federal government use more of its resources on medical care, and called for a voluntary national health plan.



'45: France passes universal health care.



'48: The National Health Service is enacted in the U.K. guaranteeing health care to all legal residents.



'62: Saskatchewan, Canada is the first province to enact single payer health care.

'66: Medical Care Act passes and single payer health care starts to expand to all provinces of Canada.



'88: The McKinney Act is passed, providing health care for the homeless.



'93: Vietnam's health insurance scheme, now with the highest coverage in South East Asia, goes nationwide.



'95: Taiwan enacts single payer health care of the course of one year.



'97: The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a federal program, is created to provide care to children that do not qualify for Medicaid.



'04: Rwanda's universal health insurance program, which now has the highest rates of coverage in Africa, goes nationwide.



'05: Sen. Kuehl introduces SB 840. California Alliance for Legislative Action and California Physicians Alliance organize 1st lobby day.



'09: Sen Kuehl terms out of Senate and Sen. Leno becomes lead author of SB 810 as it is reintroduced with same language as SB 840.



'11: Vermont passes legislation which sets up a review board to determine if VT will be the first U.S. state to implement single payer in 2017.



'17: State Innovation Waivers become available, allowing states to implement their own system, as long as it is comprehensive, covers as many people and does not add to the federal deficit.

1880

2017



'15: The American Association of Labor (AALL) writes a bill that guarantees coverage to those earning less than \$12,000, as well as a \$50 stipend to cover funeral costs. Although it had the initial support of the AMA, the bill eventually fails.



'43: Wagner National Health Act: Known as FDR's second push for health care reform, the bill was an addition to the Social Security Bill. It called for a compulsory national health insurance plan funded through a payroll tax. In spite of 14 years of reintroduction, it never passes in Congress.



'46: The Hill-Burton Act is passed, requiring hospitals that use federal money to provide free or low-cost care to patients in the area that cannot afford care.



'65: Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Medicare Bill



'71: The Health Security Act is introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy. It provided a universal, single-payer health care plan funded by a payroll tax. The bill never passes through Congress and fails.



'85: President Reagan signs the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), a bill which adds hospice care to both Medicare and Medicaid.



'90: The Americans with Disabilities Act is passed, providing health benefits to those with disabilities.



'94: Proposition 186 : California Health Security Act



'03: Sen. Kuehl introduces SB 921. In 2004, SB 921 passes in the CA Senate but not the Assembly.



'06: Massachusetts passes health care reform including individual mandate.



'08: Moore and thousands of SB 840 supporters rally outside Moscone Center in SF. Gov. Schwarzenegger vetoes bill again.



'10: President Barack Obama signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as a means to expand Medicaid and regulate insurance companies by preventing them from offering higher rates due to pre-existing conditions.



'12: SB 810 does not make it out of the Senate Floor. Four Senate Democrats abstained and two Senate Democrats voted against the bill.



'14: The majority of ACA provisions take effect