

How Farmers Will Benefit with Medicare for All Californian

Farming is an important industry in California and not all farmers are running industrial size farms. It is sometimes impossible for small farmers to find individual coverage and, when they do, the premiums are exorbitant, with extremely high deductibles. Many farmers must rely on off-farm jobs in order to find any affordable health insurance option and this takes us away from their real jobs.

Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in America. Farmers use heavy equipment, take care of large animals and are exposed to hazardous chemicals. Their hours are long and they often work all day in the sun.

As a consequence, many of them are considered by insurance companies to have pre-existing conditions. Even though recent federal health law says that they can no longer be denied insurance because of pre-existing conditions, there are no limits to what an insurance company can charge, and so farmers find themselves and their families priced out of the market – in effect, denied coverage.

The health care crisis affects many Americans but people who live in rural areas are twice as likely to be uninsured as urban residents. And farmers and ranchers, according to the Center for Rural Affairs, are **four times as likely to be underinsured as urban residents**.

A Medicare for All Californians healthcare system would change these statistics. All residents of California would have access to the same guaranteed, full health coverage at affordable rates.

We can't continue to let the insurance industry and Big Pharma run our health care system. They do it for profit. It's time that we had a health care system that exists for the sole purpose of providing the best health care possible to all California residents – farmers, children, the elderly, city people and rural people, even corporate executives.

Medicare for All Californians will cover every Californian with comprehensive health insurance and give them the ability to choose their own physician.