

On June 25 the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club held Part 2 of our Call to Action that began in March. This meeting focused on healthcare and the environment.

Healthcare was especially timely: The leadership in the California Assembly had just decided to postpone a bill for single-payer healthcare that would remove the insurance practices that stand between doctors and patients.

The discussion about the environment included a new effort to mobilize Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, on the scale of home front mobilizations during World War II.

But the overarching theme was insulating California from the troubling policies coming out of Washington and the Republican-controlled federal government. State Senator Ben Allen spoke about initiatives in California to assert states' rights and move ahead with our agenda, putting people and the environment ahead of corporate interests.

HEALTHCARE

Dr. Paul Song, co-chair of the Campaign for a Healthy California, was joined by representatives of the California Nurses Association Mari Lopez and Lucia Brandt. SB 562, now in the state Assembly, would cover everyone, including undocumented workers, and still save the state 18% on healthcare overall. How is that possible? Single payer saves money in part because it eliminates insurance company profits.

CALL TO ACTION: Call/email/tweet key members of the legislature to support SB 562:

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-63) — 916-319-2063; health committee chair Jim Wood — 916-319-2002; and if you are in District 50, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, who has not taken a position — 916-319-2050.

Deadline for action is July 14.

ENVIRONMENT

On the environment — and we were reminded the environment also affects our health — we heard presentations from David Pettit of the Natural Resources Defense Council and RL Miller, founder of Climate Hawks Vote.

Among the issues presented: SB 100, requiring California to get 100 percent of our electricity from renewable sources before mid-century, and SB 71, requiring all new buildings to have solar rooftops by 2022. A handout from City Councilmember Paul Koretz called on “creative minds and grassroots activists to create the City of the Future ... here, on the ground, in the City of Angels.”

CALL TO ACTION: Please express your support for SB 100 and SB 71, as well as three other bills specifically protecting California from Trump-administration attempts to overturn automobile fuel standards (SB 49), public land use (SB 50) and protection for whistleblowers (SB51).

The PaliDems are most active at election time, but these days we can't wait. It's urgent to protect our healthcare and environment from assaults out of Washington. California leads the way, and we as concerned citizens have to lead California.

