



News from The Associated Press
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Partnership in CA gives health care to everyone

By JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP) -- Dozens of patients file through Sutter Solano Medical Center's emergency room every day in this recession-wracked Northern California city, often without insurance, cash or legal immigration status. They all get health care, no questions asked.

Medical providers in Vallejo teamed up to establish the program, generating community opposition because illegal immigrants were among those who benefited from services funded in part with county money. This led to a civil grand jury investigation, and a Board of Supervisors vote.

The partnership survived, but the skirmish was a reminder of how touchy the issue of health care for illegal immigrants remains for many Americans, whether in towns like Vallejo or in Washington, D.C., where legislators are skirting the matter as they work to overhaul the nation's health system.

The program also serves as an example of how a community has found a way to confront the reality that undocumented immigrants will not be covered by health care reforms.

Illegal immigrants make up about one-third of the approximately 24 million people under age 65 who would remain uninsured even under the health reform bills being debated in Congress. With limited exceptions, they do not qualify for federal health programs, and the bills being debated would not change that.

The program in Vallejo, a city of 120,000 northeast of San Francisco, was born from the need to alleviate pressure on overcrowded emergency rooms - and balance hospital budgets.

Vallejo was hit hard by the foreclosure crisis, filing for bankruptcy in May 2008. Rising unemployment deprived many residents of job-based health insurance.

The number of people showing up at Sutter Solano's emergency room was going up year after year, along with the percentage of those not facing true emergencies. Like other hospitals, it is legally bound to help anyone who shows up, regardless of ability to pay.

The economic downturn made it worse. Over the last two years, the percentage of non-emergency patients in Sutter Solano's emergency department went up 51 percent. Caring for uninsured, non-emergency patients has cost the hospital \$1.8 million this year.

Under the partnership, true emergencies are seen at the hospital. Other patients are sent to a clinic where they get long-term care and follow-up visits, all on a sliding fee scale.

Providers say the partnership is saving money, largely because it's better for the hospital to have people get preventive care at the clinic than constantly showing up at the emergency room. Patients say it works.

Sergio Santana recently lost his job as a unionized painter, and the health insurance that went with it. When a cut on his foot got infected, he turned to Sutter Solano's emergency department three times - a total cost of \$1,600.

Then he realized that he could get a follow-up visit at the clinic under the program. That cost him \$21.40.

"When I went to the hospital, I wasn't thinking about cost, I was just worried about my foot," said Santana, who is a citizen. "Here, though, they're doing a good job, and I'm paying what I paid when I had insurance."

The bill being debated in the Senate would bar illegal immigrants from getting government subsidies, and from using their own money to buy coverage offered by private companies in an insurance exchange.

The House-approved bill would forbid them from getting government subsidies, but would allow them to use their own money to buy coverage. It would also require them to carry insurance, but many illegal immigrants will likely not be able to afford it, said Shana Alex Lavarreda, a senior researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles' Center for Health Policy Research.

"It's just a given. They're going to remain out of this reform," said Judy Solomon, a senior fellow with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

That usually means going to the emergency room for care.

Nationally, emergency room visits jumped 32 percent from 1996 to 2006 - the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of the 119.2 million patients who showed up in 2006, more than 85 percent were not classified as urgent or as an emergency.

Proponents of reducing immigration believe providing health care to illegal immigrants, whether at the federal or local level, creates an incentive for them to come. It's also unfair to ask Americans to subsidize their care, said Yeh Ling-Ling, executive director of the Oakland-based group Alliance for a Sustainable USA.

"Many American citizens have filed for bankruptcy because of their medical bills, and others are struggling to pay their tax bills," said Yeh. "How can we ask them to pay for health care for illegal immigrants?"

To Vallejo hospital officials, investing in a program that helped them reduce unnecessary visits to the emergency room made sense.

Sutter Solano and Kaiser Permanente Medical Center committed \$300,000 each over three years to jump-start the clinic, called La Clinica de la Raza, North Vallejo. The county contributed \$250,000 up front, and promised \$256,500 more over three years.

One year after its inauguration, La Clinica is seeing about 800 patients a month. One-third are referrals from hospital emergency rooms.

Even with the clinic nearby, Sutter Solano saw 6,000 more emergency room visits this year than projected.

"It frightens me to think what would have happened had La Clinica not been there," said CEO Terry Glubka.

County officials said that regardless of what happens in Washington, they're keeping the program.

"For the health of the community, you can't exclude some populations," said Patrick Duterte, the county's director of Health and Social Services. "You're going to pay for it in the long run."

Like the hospitals, the clinic doesn't ask about immigration status. It's not their business, said Monique Sims, the clinic's director.

"As far as their health is concerned, immigration status is not a factor," she said. "We're just trying to meet a need here - an unmet need."

Link to article:

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_IMMIGRANTS_HEALTH_CARE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2009-12-17-15-27-36

MULTIPLE LISTINGS

Friday, December 18, 2009
06:00 AM - 06:00 AM Notification



Total Number of Items included: 69

Your daily email notification has a new look! Now you have the ability to design your own daily notification using our new email template. To learn more, visit our "What's New" page at: http://us.cision.com/client_support/cisionpoint/cisionpoint_whatsnew.asp

Outlet: Lake County News

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Health care help available for pregnant women on low incomes \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/18/2009

Extract: LAKE COUNTY – Think you may be pregnant? No insurance? Low income? Do not wait to get medical care! Get presumptive eligibility for pregnancy medical care today. It's easy, friendly and free. Presumptive eligibility will pay for most medical care while you wait for a decision from Medi-Cal. Also receive help and information about other programs that help with payment for pregnancy care. Call **Sutter Lakeside Hospital** at 707-262-5000, extension 5596, or 707-263-7359.

Outlet: Sify.com

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Partnership in CA gives health care to everyone \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

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Outlet: CBS 12 KCOY

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Outlet: wafb.com

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Outlet: **wgem.com**

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Outlet: **medbroadcast.com**

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Outlet: **KPAX.com**

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Outlet: **FOX 35**

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Outlet: **WAND TV**

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Outlet: **KIONRIGHTNOW.com**

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Outlet: **KNDO/KNDU Right Now**

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Outlet: **khq.com**

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Outlet: **WMBFnews.com**

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Outlet: 13 Action News

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Outlet: FOX 12 KTRV

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Outlet: KJCT News 8

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Outlet: Red Bluff Daily News

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Robert Taylor, MD named St. Elizabeth Physician of the Year \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/18/2009

Extract: St. Elizabeth Community Hospital is proud to announce Robert Taylor, MD as the 2009 recipient of the Values in Action Physician of the Year Award, the highest honor in the **Catholic Healthcare West** system. The selection is based on nominations from employees, board members, fellow physicians, volunteers and Sisters of Mercy. A selection committee chooses a physician who exemplifies the values of the organization, is active ...

Outlet: Advance for Nurses

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [SFGH Breaks Ground for New Building \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/18/2009

Extract: said Robert Kincade, MD, medical director of the VAD Program at the Sutter Heart & Vascular Institute. "With this certification, **Sutter Medical Center** provides the most comprehensive and

extensive cardiac services in Northern California." The LVAD certification, reportedly the first in Northern California, follows the recertification of **Sutter Medical Center's** heart transplant program. jan rombaro Carson City, NV Carson Tahoe ... Carson City, NV Resurrection ... Chicago, ...

Outlet: Valley Times

Title/Program: [CENTER HONORED FOR ORGAN DONATIONS \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Print

Media Type: Daily Newspaper Release Cover

Publication Date: 12/09/2009

Extract: restaurant on Dec. 19 to celebrate the anniversary of a successful surgery to replace her liver. She considers that day to be her new Christmas after her "last glimmer of hope" was realized when doctors found a match. That match came from **Eden Medical Center**, which -- with its continued focus on helping patients find donors -- has earned the Organ Donation Medal of Honor for the second consecutive year. The recognition is given by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to hospitals ...

Outlet: The Daily Triplicate Online

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [CHP: DUI suspect's vehicle hits Pebble Beach guardrail \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: a guardrail at about 2 a.m., according to the California Highway Patrol. If the guardrail had not stopped Brown's 2003 Ford Focus, it might have gone over an oceanside embankment, authorities said. Brown was treated for a head injury at **Sutter Coast Hospital**, then arrested and booked into the

Del Norte County Jail, the CHP said. "He took a blood test instead of a breathalyzer," said CHP Sgt.

Del Gray. "We won't get the results for a while." Three passengers, Eric Scott, 18, of San Jose; ...

Outlet: TaiwanNews

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Title/Program: [Calif. partnership gives health care to everyone \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

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Outlet: Simi Valley Acorn

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Hospital dedicates new lobby \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: president and CEO Darwin Remboldt, center; and **Adventist Health** board chairman Ricardo Graham during the official opening of the hospital's new lobby and entrance on Dec. 15 in Simi Valley. JANN HENDRY/Acorn Newspapers Simi Valley Hospital unveiled the last piece of its new Patient Care Tower to city and hospital officials on Tuesday. But even more significant than the viewing of the new main entrance and lobby was the announcement that **Adventist Health**, the hospitals parent corporation, ...

Outlet: Inside Bay Area

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Alameda Hospital staff may take pay cuts \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: of existing ones. It also could include layoffs. "We really are trying to plan for the long view" instead of just reacting to the hospital's current situation, Stebbins said of the decision to pursue pay cuts. A spokesman for the **California Nurses Association** said late last week he had not yet been formally presented with the wage reduction proposal and was not prepared to comment. A spokeswoman for SEIU-United Healthcare Workers, which recently secured an 18 percent wage hike for ...

Outlet: Sacramento Bee

Title/Program: [Sutter Health gives River City Food Bank financial boost \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Print

Media Type: Daily Newspaper

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: Thomas , the food bank's executive director. "People from all walks of life are turning to us in crisis mode," Thomas said. Other **Sutter Health** donations went to the Placer County Food Bank , \$14,500; the Yolo County Children's Alliance, \$4,000; and Yuba-Sutter counties' Beale Air Force Base Operation Warm Heart, \$500. Tom Gagen , head of **Sutter Medical Center** , Sacramento, said the donations help vulnerable families stay healthy. Copyright © 2009 McClatchy-Tribune Information ...

Outlet: Yahoo! Canada

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [California program offers health care to illegal immigrants, uninsured as Congress debates \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

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Outlet: Winnipeg Free Press Live

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Outlet: The Daily Courier

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Outlet: canadaeast.com

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Outlet: guelphmercury.com

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Outlet: Kamloops Daily News

[Link to Article](#)

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Outlet: washingtonpost.com

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Extract: review the full rules governing commentaries and discussions. You are fully responsible for the content that you post. Who's Blogging » Links to this article The Associated Press VALLEJO, Calif. -- Dozens of patients file through **Sutter Solano Medical Center's** emergency room every day in this

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Outlet: **modbee.com**

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Outlet: **Kentucky.com**

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Outlet: **C-Health**

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Outlet: **U.S. Pharmacist**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Gastrointestinal Bleeding: An Alarming Sign \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: Manouchehr Saljoughian, PharmD, PhD Department of Pharmacy Services **Alta Bates Summit Medical Center** Berkeley, California 12/17/2009 US Pharm. 2009;34(12):HS12-HS16. Gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding can originate anywhere from the pharynx to the rectum and can be occult or overt. It differs from internal bleeding, where blood ...

Outlet: **Associated Press**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [News from The Associated Press \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

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Extract: 3:27 PM EST Partnership in CA gives health care to everyone By JULIANA BARBASSA Associated Press Writer Buy AP Photo Reprints The Climate Pool Your Questions Answered VALLEJO, Calif. (AP) -- Dozens of patients file through **Sutter Solano Medical Center's** emergency room every day in this recession-wracked Northern California city, often without insurance, cash or legal immigration status. They all get health care, no questions asked. Medical providers in Vallejo teamed up to establish ...

Outlet: **SFExaminer.com**

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Outlet: **The Canadian Press**

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Outlet: **PressofAtlanticCity.com**

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Outlet: **Yahoo! Canada**

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Outlet: **Associated Press**

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Outlet: **Reflector.com**

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Outlet: **The New York Times**

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Outlet: examiner.com

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Partnership in CA gives health care to everyone \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

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Outlet: Forbes.com

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Outlet: SanLuisObispo.com

[Link to Article](#)

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Outlet: KTVU.COM

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Vallejo Partnership Gives Health Care To Everyone \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Broadcast Version

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Outlet: **omaha.com**

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Outlet: **sacbee**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Sutter Health gives River City Food Bank financial boost \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: Eileen Thomas, the food bank's executive director. 'People from all walks of life are turning to us in crisis mode,' Thomas said. Other **Sutter Health** donations went to the Placer County Food Bank, \$14,500; the Yolo County Children's Alliance, \$4,000; and Yuba-Sutter counties' Beale Air Force Base Operation Warm Heart, \$500. Tom Gagen, head of **Sutter Medical Center**, Sacramento, said the donations help vulnerable families stay healthy. Call The Bee's Bill Lindelof, (916) 321-1079.

Outlet: **MiamiHerald.com**

[Link to Article](#)

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Media Group: Internet

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Extract: brushes with this system. As chief prosecutor, Moore lets them do most of the talking and weaves their stories into the film with wit, compassion and humor. Associated Press Writer VALLEJO, Calif. -- Dozens of patients file through **Sutter Solano Medical Center's** emergency room every day in this recession-wracked Northern California city, often without insurance, cash or legal immigration status. They all get health care, no questions asked. Medical providers in Vallejo teamed up to establish ...

Outlet: **Lancaster Online**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Partnership in CA gives health care to everyone \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: Related Topics Care (2) Health (2) Immigrants (2) Related Storiesaddthis_brand = "LancasterOnline.com"; Dozens of patients file through **Sutter Solano Medical Center's** emergency room every day in this recession-wracked Northern California city, often without insurance, cash or legal immigration status. They all get health care, no questions asked. Medical providers in Vallejo teamed up to establish ...

Outlet: **The Buffalo News**

[Link to Article](#)

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[Health](#))

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Outlet: [OneNewsNow.com](#)

[Link to Article](#)

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Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

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Outlet: [The Olympian](#)

[Link to Article](#)

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Outlet: [Cox.net for Phoenix](#)

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Residential serving Arizona | MyConnection Article Details \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: their homes could slide into the Pacific. Police say an officer fatally shot a gunman who had shot and killed another man at a crowded elderly care center in Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border. Dozens of patients file through **Sutter Solano Medical Center's** emergency room every day in this recession-wracked Northern California city, often without insurance, cash or legal immigration status. They all get health care, no questions asked.

Outlet: [KansasCity.com](#)

[Link to Article](#)

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Outlet: **The Seattle Times**

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Outlet: **Cox.net for Phoenix**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Residential serving Arizona | MyConnection Article Details \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: federal judge says he'll order an investigation into the apparent destruction of evidence in a lawsuit over mass arrests during 2002 protests against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Dozens of patients file through **Sutter Solano Medical Center's** emergency room every day in this recession-wracked Northern California city, often without insurance, cash or legal immigration status. They all get health care, no questions asked.

Outlet: **Journal-News.com**

[Link to Article](#)

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Outlet: **Associated Press**

Title/Program: [Partnership in CA gives health care to everyone \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Other

Media Type: News Service/Syndicate

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

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Outlet: **Fort Mill Times Online**

[Link to Article](#)

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Media Group: Internet

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Outlet: gjsentinel.com

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Outlet: MyNorthwest.com

[Link to Article](#)

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Outlet: Tri-City Voice

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Tri-City Voice Newspaper - Whats Happening - Fremont, Union City, Newark, California \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Online Print Version

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: Tri-City Voice Newspaper - Whats Happening - Fremont, Union City, Newark, California > **Kaiser Permanente** encourages HIV/AIDS testing among young people **Kaiser Permanente** encourages HIV/AIDS testing among young people Submitted By Johnny Ng **Kaiser Permanente** has awarded more than \$500,000 in Community Benefit grants to seven northern California organizations to increase HIV testing and counseling ...

Outlet: The New York City Independent Media Center

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Single-Payer Amendment Needs Debate and a Vote In the Senate \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: Update from Donna Smith, **California Nurses Association**, on Sen. Sanders Single-Payer Amendment Time to let Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid know that the American people want a debate and a vote on Medicare for all, single-payer healthcare during this Congressional effort. And itâ€™s ...

Outlet: **Think Progress**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Think Progress \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: Blogs

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: ugly thing." One of the worst abuses of the private health insurance industry is its practice of denying claims to pay for necessary care for patients. This practice has become so rampant in the industry that a recent study by the **California Nurses Association** found that , " flatly refusing to cover the \$20,000 bill for the implant. In a written statement to the local news station Fox 2, Cigna explained, "It is not unusual for commercial benefit plans When a prominent Virginian chooses ...

Outlet: **True/Slant**

[Link to Article](#)

Title/Program: [Would the Senate healthcare bill have helped Obama's mother? - Allison Kilkenny - Unreported - True/Slant \(Subscription: Sutter Health\)](#)

Media Group: Internet

Media Type: News Web Sites

Publication Date: 12/17/2009

Extract: to cover everyone, but they could also charge a lot of money to cover older people, who are more likely to get sick. Model may have to pay much more for coverage simply because of her age. Donna Smith, legislative advocate for the **California Nurses Association**, age-rating will "leave a lot of people exposed by buying only those policies they can afford...So they can still be driven to foreclosure and bankruptcy." There is also some concern that so-called consumer protections like the ...