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Patient and Consumer Forum on Health Care Affordability
 March 10, 2026
 Public Comment

The following table reflects written public comments that were sent to the Office of Health Care Affordability email inbox ahead of the Patient and Consumer Forum on Health Care Affordability.

Date	Name	Written Comment
3/6/2026	Janet Leen	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.
3/6/2026	Valerie Olson	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.
3/6/2026	Mark Giordani	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.
3/6/2026	Marc Silverman	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. My healthcare monthly premium doubled for 2026 and Im on the most basic plan possible. My wife's plan also dobled and she's a cancer survivor who absolutely needs a more robust, and hence expensive, plan that also doubled in 2026. Thankfully, we can still get by paying the insane rates that dont actually cover the cost of care but allow us simply in the door. Because of these expenses, I absolutely have to make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially so that I can continue to pay for medical care. The US healthcare system is not sustainable and does not

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		work! This is not insurance but extortion. We must change our system to a single payer, healthcare.
3/6/2026	Angela Gardner	<p>I am a health care policy advocate and a person with a disability. There were many times in my adult life where I was uninsured because I could not afford it. I also was denied Medi-Cal before a surgery I needed to have. I became a healthcare advocate because like me, so many people could not afford healthcare and some died because of it. The number 1 cause of debt or bankruptcy is healthcare. The</p> <p>Affordable Care Act was supposed to expand access to healthcare but there a loopholes that allow health insurance companies to raise rates without oversight for profit and also deny care for patients. This is unacceptable. Health insurance industry donates to politicians and hire lobbyist to continue to make a profit off healthcare and deny care. It has gone on too long and the insurance companies must be held accountable to follow the laws to provide funding for healthcare. Thank you.</p>
3/6/2026	Phallon Davis	<p>Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially. Everything President Trump had done & signed needs to be undone & unsigned now before it is to late because it already is!</p>
3/6/2026	Janet Heinle	<p>Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.</p> <p>I want to have the same healthcare Congress has and doesn't deserve.</p> <p>We should all have the same healthcare as Congress!!!</p>
3/6/2026	AJ Cho	<p>Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially. I'm not even willing to seek preventive care or mental health services because I</p>

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		am afraid of being saddled once again with medical debts I can't pay off on my own.
3/6/2026	Kristen Beck	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. I personally work in healthcare and am having a hard time paying our personal medical bills. The stress it causes is unhealthy and unnecessary. There has to be a better, more reasonable solution than increasing healthcare costs.
3/8/2026	Bo Fahey	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.
3/9/2026	Cindy Chambers	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.
3/9/2026	Teal McConn	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially. My daughters also have had to navigate an ever changing (for the worse) system of health care. There are too many young people who go without health insurance because it is expensive and their employers don't provide that benefit.
3/9/2026	Patrick Champeau	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.
3/10/2026	Catherine Wiggs	Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or

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3/10/2026	Lisa Geiszler	<p>Californians like myself face high costs of living, and cannot afford the ever-escalating price of health care. Because of these expenses, I have to delay or ration care, or make difficult decisions about what to prioritize financially.</p> <p>My co-pays & deductibles went up over 400% this year. While I used to pay \$8 to see a specialist, now it's \$90, which means I put off seeing specialists. I pay over \$1200 a month & with food & rent, it doesn't leave money for anything else. I make tough decisions about food & medicines, that have also increased. I'm forced to pay for healthcare via credit with interest rates over 25%. It is unsustainable. I need help. Healthcare should not be this expensive but insurance companies only care about shareholders and profit. There should be limits on how much premiums, copays & deductibles can increase a year because they increase at a way larger percent than wages and that is unsustainable. We are in a health care crisis.</p>
3/10/2026	Robert Vinetz	<p>As a retired pediatrician who cared for low-income children for over 45 years, I have this urgent suggestion that could be helpful in your efforts: Here's a PROVEN way to protect Medi-Cal...SAVE some \$4 BILLION for California taxpayers EVERY YEAR...do this within current federal rules and, in the process, improve the quality of care for us all: An analysis of state-by-state spending [Removing the Middlemen from Medicaid: A Blueprint for Better Care and Lower Costs] showed that, in one year alone (2023), California could have saved between \$2 billion and over \$4 billion taxpayer dollars if we had acted as Connecticut has done and changed to direct payment of Medi-Cal (Medicaid) providers...removing the managed care middlemen...and in the process increased the number of primary care physicians and improved the quality of care.</p> <p>I urge you...strongly... to please look at this report and consider taking action.</p> <p>HERE'S THE LINK TO THE REPORT: https://pnhp.org/removing-the-middlemen-from-medicaid/#appendix-f</p>