

Three More Pennsylvania Counties Bring the Savings Thus Far Close to \$1.5 BILLION with Proposed Single Payer Legislation 35 Counties to Go

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HealthCare4ALLPA

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The demonstrable savings to Pennsylvania taxpayers under the Family and Business Healthcare Security Act (SB 400/ HB 1660) continue to mount. With the release of data from Cambria, Lancaster and Montgomery counties \$206,804,503 has been added to the savings under proposed single payer legislation. This brings the total with the release of 32 counties to \$1,407,259,099 that Pennsylvania county governments, cities, municipalities, and school boards will save on what they are currently paying for employee health care costs.

Pennsylvania governmental agencies are literally spending billions of dollars to provide health benefits to their employees. These benefits are provided by private, for-profit health insurance companies which annually increase their premiums to the point where, according to a 2007 study by the Pennsylvania Economy League, it is creating "fiscal distress to our municipalities" and has become a "crushing burden" to them. Under SB 400/HB 1660 the taxpayers of Pennsylvania will be relieved of this ever-increasing "crushing burden." Under this single-payer healthcare system a Medicare-type agency operated by the State of Pennsylvania will provide public funding for our privately delivered healthcare, and every employer will pay a 10% payroll tax which will help fund our new healthcare for all system. This 10% wellness tax represents a dramatic cost savings as it replaces what businesses are currently paying private insurance companies for benefits that are often inferior than the comprehensive benefits provided by this legislation which will also eliminate co-pays, deductibles, and the cost of prescription drugs.

It is simply not true that health care for all will cost too much money. The reverse is true. Passage of this legislation will reverse the collision course with financial disaster many of our counties and municipalities are facing because of the ever-rising cost of privately delivered for-profit health insurance. There is no better form of economic stimulus than publicly financing of private health care.

With the passage of HB 1660 and SB 400 every employee will have comprehensive health care. We began with Erie County, located in the very northwest of the Commonwealth. These savings are based on the final figures from the last fiscal year and were obtained from the source via the Open Records Act of 2009.

Adams County	\$16,387,566
Allegheny County	\$193,426,318
Beaver County	\$20,980,063
Bedford County	\$6,053,628
Berks County	\$36,604,751
Bradford County	\$9,379,736
Bucks County	\$78,890,526
Cambria County	21,098,394
Cameron County	\$738,369
Centre County	\$18,183,382
Chester County	\$61,423,531
Clearfield County	\$18,160,168
Columbia County	\$9,046,373
Crawford County	\$14,926,946
Dauphin County	\$45,765,850
Elk County	\$4,899,202
Erie County	\$45,288,935
Fayette County	\$23,012,390
Forest County	\$814,075
Franklin County	\$21,406,749
Fulton County	\$1,704,976
Jefferson County	\$7,399,700
Lancaster County	62,313,520

McKean County	\$6,149,056
Mercer County	\$17,027,117
Montgomery County	123,392,589
Philadelphia County	\$381,611,935
Schuylkill County	\$20,866,849
Warren County	\$8,545,331
Washington County	\$25,496,793
Westmoreland County	\$43,945,201
York County	\$62,319,080

Governor Rendell has committed to signing HB 1660 & SB 400 when it reaches his desk.

Uncontrollable health care costs have, and will continue to force our cities and towns to cut personnel from programs that protect children, and police and fire fighters that protect all of us. Libraries across the Commonwealth are facing major cutbacks and closings. In 2003 Richard Wagoneer, former CEO of GM warned, " Failing to address the health care crisis would be the worst kind of procrastination, the kind that places our children and our grandchildren at risk and threatens the health and global competitiveness of our nation's economy".

Proposed Pennsylvania legislation, HB 1660 and SB 400, will provide comprehensive health care to everyone with a single payer system. Pennsylvania has 67 counties and we have been releasing data on each to show the amount that each county, and each municipality, and each school district within that county will save on employee health care with this legislation.

As they are released, the details for each County are posted at our website, www.healthcare4allpa.org.

HealthCare4All PA is a statewide organization devoted to transforming health care in Pennsylvania in such a way that will be accessible and affordable quality care at tremendous savings to businesses and taxpayers. We are staffed by volunteers from all walks of life and from every part of the Commonwealth.

35 COUNTIES TO GO!