

NEW UC BERKELEY STUDY

CALIFORNIA CAN'T AFFORD TO LET CORPORATIONS SHIFT HEALTH CARE COSTS ONTO WORKING FAMILIES

**FIGHT
FOR OUR
HEALTH**

Research shows why California leaders must include a Fair Share Contribution in the budget

A new report from the UC Berkeley Labor Center confirms what working Californians already know: too many large corporations fail to provide affordable health coverage for their workers, forcing taxpayers to pick up the tab when those same workers turn to Medi-Cal. At a time when federal health care cuts threaten care for millions, state leaders must choose between protecting Californians who depend on Medi-Cal — or huge corporations earning record windfalls at the expense of health care access.



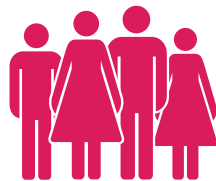
3.6 MILLION

California workers **RELY ON MEDI-CAL** for health coverage at a projected cost of

\$36 BILLION

in state and federal dollars, while the same corporations who employ those workers are earning record-breaking profits

A family of four with income at the poverty line (about \$32,000) would have to pay **23% of their income to cover the \$7,300 average health insurance premium** contribution for job-based coverage, not including a likely deductible and other out-of-pocket expenses; *an impossible burden for many working families already struggling with housing, food, and child care costs.*



When employers fail to provide affordable coverage, workers do not stop needing health care. Instead, the public absorbs the cost.

LOW-WAGE WORKERS ARE LOCKED OUT OF AFFORDABLE EMPLOYER COVERAGE & TAXPAYERS ARE COVERING THE BILL

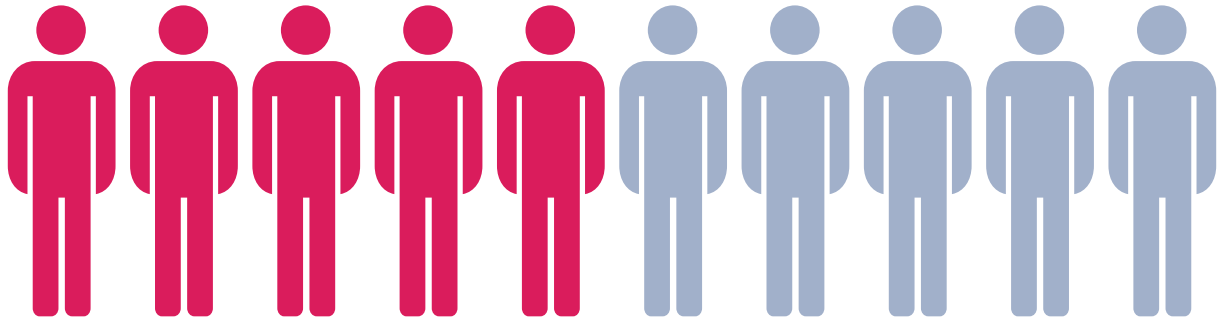
California's health care system relies heavily on employer-sponsored insurance. But according to the Berkeley Labor Center report, low-wage workers are far less likely to receive health coverage through their jobs than higher-wage workers.

WHO GETS HEALTH COVERAGE THROUGH THEIR JOB?



*low-wage workers earn less than about \$20/hr in 2022

HALF OF WORKERS ON MEDI-CAL WORK FOR LARGE CORPORATIONS



Taxpayers are subsidizing profitable corporations that underinvest in worker health coverage.

CALIFORNIA BUDGET MUST INCLUDE A REVENUE SOLUTION FOR MEDI-CAL

California workers are doing their part. Taxpayers are doing their part. It's time for large corporations to do theirs.

The California Senate has already included a Fair Share Contribution, a bold proposal that would hold corporations accountable and reduce the impact of federal health care cuts, in its budget proposal. **The Legislature and Governor Newsom must include this solution in the final budget.**

Corporations have spent years paying wages so low their workers have no choice but to rely on Medi-Cal. Now those same corporations are pocketing billions in federal tax breaks — paid for by cutting the very health care their workers depend on.



READ THE FULL REPORT HERE:

<https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/inequities-in-job-based-health-coverage-for-california-low-wage-workers/>