

WEEKLY FLASH



Governor Pitches His Healthcare Reform to Council

Yesterday, July 12th, after [thanking the Bay Area Council](#) for its work to pass the infrastructure bonds last year, Governor Schwarzenegger asked for our members help again – this time on healthcare reform. He pitched his version of healthcare reform to about 300 Bay Area Council members gathered at AT&T’s facilities in San Ramon and was flanked on the stage by attendees of the Bay Area Council’s Executive Committee.

The governor’s plan would require all individuals in California to carry a minimum level of insurance, eliminating a hidden tax the state’s insured people pay to cover uninsured people’s costs. Businesses’ share of that hidden tax now amounts to \$14.7 billion per year, he says, so it’s not unfair to ask businesses that have 10 or more employees – but won’t offer health coverage – to contribute 4 percent of payroll to a state coverage fund.



The Executive Committee also heard from Steve Burd, Chairman, President and CEO of Safeway and a national leader on healthcare reform, about Safeway’s market-based solution that has actually reduced the employee contribution and the corporation’s healthcare costs. Other U.S. companies have seen annual double-digit growth. [Safeway’s plan](#) focuses on individual responsibility for healthcare, 100 percent coverage of preventative care, wellness programs and rewards for healthier behavior. Hovering over the meetings was the almost certain future ballot initiative to create a single-payer system, where – Jim Wunderman has quipped – the “single-payer” will be the economy of California.

Therefore after his speech, Jim Wunderman turned to the Governor and promised support: “We’re going to do everything to support you. ... It’s the right approach, it shares the costs fairly.”

Article of the Week

Coverage of the event with the Governor included the following stories: [KCBS Radio](#), [KGO-7](#), [KTVU-2](#), [KPIX-5](#), [NBC-11](#), [Contra Costa Times](#), [Oakland Tribune](#), the [East Bay Business Times](#) and [live webcast](#) on the Governor’s website.

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