



July 2023

Representative Pramila Jayapal
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jayapal,

Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and the organizations signed below are proud to support H.R. 3421, the Medicare for All Act of 2023. We are united in demanding guaranteed health care for all, and urge members of Congress to co-sponsor this proposed legislation.

The urgency to guarantee health care for all has never been clearer. In 2020 alone, uninsurance resulted in more than 200,000 preventable deaths.¹ Even with coverage, millions of Americans struggle to afford health care. Surveys show that 41% of Americans hold medical debt, and 23% have foregone or rationed prescription medications due to cost.² As the COVID-19 public health emergency ends, changes to Medicaid enrollment may leave up to 15 million more people without coverage—vulnerable families and children who often have no other options.³ It is clear that our health care system is broken, and temporary patchwork solutions will not fix it.

The United States spends almost twice as much per person on health care as the average OECD member nation, yet scores worse than these countries on life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality, and many other health outcomes.⁴ The current multi-payer framework is dominated by insurance, hospital, and pharmaceutical corporations. As a result, the U.S. squanders hundreds of billions of dollars on unnecessary administrative costs, at least half of which is wasted.⁵ Quality of care continues to deteriorate as private equity firms and other investors buy up health care practices and focus on profits over patients.⁶ The financial and moral costs of the current system thus continue to rise and are unsustainable over the long term. The question should not be, *Can we afford to improve and expand Medicare?*, but instead, *Can we afford not to?*

Those who know best the deep issues in our non-system are demanding reform; a majority of physicians support improved Medicare for All.⁷ Because of our fractured system, health care providers are forced to spend tens of billions of dollars and countless hours dealing with insurers' billing and documentation requirements.⁸ Meanwhile, corporate insurance companies prevent physicians from adequately performing their jobs, with 94% reporting delays in care due to prior authorization requirements and 89% perceiving a negative impact on patient outcomes.⁹ Time wasted dealing with insurers and arguing over coverage is time that could instead be spent with patients.

Medicare for All would fix these issues and would provide an unprecedented level of financial security and personal freedom to all Americans, who could change jobs or start new businesses without the fear of losing coverage. It would also head off the growing crisis of medical debt. While the Affordable Care Act allowed more Americans to access private insurance, it did nothing to reduce the proportion of bankruptcies driven by medical problems, and today offers little financial protection to middle-class Americans.¹⁰ Nobody should go broke as a result of receiving health care.

The Medicare for All Act of 2023 would improve and expand upon the existing Medicare program, so that every person living in the United States has guaranteed access to high-quality health care. It includes a comprehensive set of health services, such as primary care, dental, vision, prescription drugs, reproductive health services, gender-affirming care, and long-term care services and supports. Under improved Medicare for All, there would be no out-of-pocket costs, and all patients would have the freedom to choose the doctors, hospitals, and other medical professionals they wish to see. In addition, the bill emphasizes achieving health equity, and provides a way for the government to address the growing crisis in rural and urban communities that face dwindling numbers of hospitals and clinics.

Nearly all studies show that single-payer health care would create huge cost-savings for the country by simplifying the health system, cutting administrative spending, and reducing the costs of prescription drugs.¹¹ H.R. 3421 would save trillions of dollars that could be used to guarantee improved, quality health care to every person living in the United States.

Medicare for All is the only solution to the health care crisis in our country, and we call on all members of Congress to support the Medicare for All Act of 2023.

Signed,

[Physicians for a National Health Program and Allied Organizations]

[Add your organization as a signer [HERE](#)]

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