Today's health care system fails to provide quality, therapeutic care to every U.S. resident and wastes hundreds of billions of dollars a year in unnecessary administrative costs. Medicare for All would expand the cost-effective and administratively efficient Medicare program to finance comprehensive, high-quality health care for everybody in the United States. Most importantly, a Medicare for All — single-payer system — would provide health care based on patient need, not on profit.

Our current health care system is ineffective, inefficient, and expensive

Today, roughly 30 million Americans remain uninsured, and an additional 41 million adults are underinsured.

» In a recent poll, 20 percent of insured Americans reported having trouble paying their medical bills.

» 36 percent of privately insured Americans are covered by high-deductible health plans. Such plans have an average deductible of $4,347 per year for a single family.

The United States spends twice as much on health care as other major industrialized countries.

» The patchwork system of private for-profit insurers necessitates over $200 billion per year in administrative-related activities, and represents 20 to 30 percent of U.S. health care costs.

» Americans pay excessive prices for medical visits and procedures.

» In 2017, the U.S. spent 18 percent of the GDP on health care, far exceeding other industrialized nations with projections of 20 percent by 2026.

Despite outsized spending on health care, the U.S. experiences extremely poor health outcomes.

» 33 percent of U.S. adults go without recommended care, do not see a doctor when sick, or fail to fill a prescription because of costs. Only 7–8 percent of people in the U.K., Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden experience these problems.

» The United States has the highest number of preventable deaths under the age of 75, when compared to 18 other industrialized countries.

» The infant mortality rate in the United States is nearly double the average rate of 13 major Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, with 6.1 infant deaths per 1,000 births.

» In 2014, 68 percent of Americans over the age of 65 were living with two or more chronic conditions, compared to only 33 percent in the United Kingdom.

<table>
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The majority of Americans want a Medicare for All health care system

An October 2018 poll by Hill.TV/HarrisX shows that 70 percent of registered voters support Medicare for All, with 86 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of Republicans supporting it.

An August 2018 poll by Reuters/Ipsos showed that 70.1 percent of voters support Medicare for All, with 84.5 percent of Democrats and 41.1 percent of Republicans supporting the policy.

Young Americans overwhelmingly support a single-payer program. An Associated Press poll from October 2018 showed that 69 percent of young Americans between the ages of 15 and 34 favored a government-run health insurance program.

Support for a Medicare for All system is growing!

Medicare for All offers a comprehensive, life-saving solution to health care crisis

How It Works »

» A single-payer system would expand the existing Medicare program to cover everyone in the United States.

» A single government agency would replace private insurance companies and provide the public financing of health care.

» Patients would have their choice of health care providers.

» All medically necessary services would be covered, including doctor’s visits, hospitalization, preventive care, long-term care, mental health, reproductive health, dental, vision, medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

» The new system would lead to a net increase of 2.6 million jobs. It would be an economic stimulus for small businesses which would no longer be responsible to pay for private employee health insurance.

» Medicare for All would enable the professional clinical judgment of doctors and nurses to be the basis of health care decisions.

SOURCES »


6 Ibid.


12 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Older Adults. 2014.