January 17, 2019

Dear Representative,

National Nurses United is proud to endorse the Medicare for All Act of 2019 that will be introduced soon by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. We urge you to stand with the nation’s registered nurses in support of guaranteed health care, and sign on as an original cosponsor of this bill.

National Nurses United is the largest union of registered nurses in the country, representing more than 150,000 RNs throughout the United States. Our members care for people in their most difficult hours, when they are sick and injured and when they are dying. We see the personal impacts of a flawed health care system in our hospitals and clinics every single day. Our primary responsibility is to protect the health and wellbeing of our patients by providing safe, therapeutic care at the bedside, but this is made increasingly difficult by our country’s broken health care system.

We see countless patients who come to our emergency rooms with illness and injury that could have been prevented if they had a regular source of primary care to ensure they were current with preventive measures and to facilitate early intervention in disease processes. We care for patients who refuse to undergo lifesaving treatments because they cannot afford the costs, and talk with families as they make horrific choices between paying for medicines and paying for food, rent, or their children’s education. The current market-driven health system in this country is a disaster.

Today, nearly 30 million Americans are uninsured, and at least 40 million more are underinsured, meaning that they have insurance but cannot obtain the care they need because they cannot afford the costs of their co-payments and deductibles. The United States spends more money on healthcare than any other industrialized nation, and yet the U.S. scores poorly on many international health indicators. The current multi-payer system, dominated by insurance, hospital and pharmaceutical corporations, wastes hundreds of billions of dollars on unnecessary administrative costs, huge profit margins, and inefficiencies. Corporations should not profit from the sickness and death of patients. The costs of the current system continue to rise and are unsustainable over the long term.

The Medicare for All Act of 2019 improves and expands the existing Medicare program so that every person living in the United States has guaranteed health care. It improves Medicare so that all comprehensive health services are covered, including dental, vision, prescription drugs, women’s reproductive health services, and long term services and supports. It would require no out-of-pocket costs for patients for any services, and would give all patients the freedom to choose the doctors, hospitals and other providers they wish to see. In addition, the bill provides a way for the government to address the
growing health care crisis in rural areas and in urban communities which face dwindling numbers of hospitals and clinics despite the desperate needs of the people who live in these communities.

The bill would create huge cost-savings for the country by simplifying the health system and cutting administrative costs considerably, improving payment systems to hospitals and providers, and reducing the costs of prescription drugs. It would save the country trillions of dollars while also guaranteeing improved, quality healthcare to every person living in the United States.

Medicare for All is the only solution to the healthcare crisis in our country. On behalf of National Nurses United, we urge you to be an original cosponsor of the Medicare for All Act of 2019.

If you have any questions about the policy of the legislation, please do not hesitate to contact our Legislative Advocate, Amirah Sequeira, at 240-447-0034.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Castillo, RN  Deborah Burger, RN
Executive Director  Co-President

Zenei Cortez, RN  Jean Ross, RN
Co-President  Co-President