



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

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President's Message to Senator Sanders: Show Me Change

Dear Senator Sanders:

Congratulations on introducing S. 1804, national universal Medicare. Medicare reduces fear about medical debt, poverty, and racial and income based disparities. Medicare for everyone should result in better health for everyone, through equality and equitability in health care. However the transitional elements of S. 1804 perpetuate inequalities.

Missourians for Single Payer (MoSP), founded in 1990 when our state single payer bill was introduced, began advocating for a national single payer program in 2003 with Citizens for a National Health Program, renamed Healthcare NOW. MoSP does not advocate for any health program in which there are different levels of quality of care for different socioeconomic groups. Our objections lie within the Transitional Medicare Buy-In Option and Transitional Public Option section of S. 1804. Please consider our perspectives:

1. Privatized Medicare, Part C and Part D divert Medicare's trust fund to for-profit entities. They should be terminated.
2. Optional Medicare attracts the old, the sick and the poor. One risk pool, sick and healthy, young and elderly, with the costs shared by everyone, is essential.
3. Inclusion of citizens ages 55-65 and disabled citizens, but exclusion of young, healthy productive citizens, can quickly bankrupt Medicare. 19 million Americans 65 and older enrolled in Medicare in eleven months in 1965-1966 using pencil to paper. With the latest cutting-edge technology and Social Security enrollees at birth, enrolling everyone at once in Medicare can be streamlined and efficient.
4. Enrollment should be done through Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Enrolling Americans through the existing "Exchanges" in which one chooses a private insurance plan in one's state and within one's budget, is neither expedient nor sensible. The costly ACA Exchanges are cumbersome and confusing, adding to the public's outcry: "the government can't do anything right!"



Bernie Sanders introduces S. 1804



Senator Sanders promotes Medicare for All

Medicare for All is inevitable. Strict adherence to the principle of everybody in and nobody out saves money and lives. Clinging to the status quo, but calling it transition, will not accomplish this. We live in the Show Me State. Show us real change in S. 1804.

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Yours in health, Mimi Signor, RN,
President, Missourians for Single Payer

Meet Keith Ellison, Sponsor of HR 676



Congressman Keith Ellison received unanimous consent from his House colleagues to become the lead sponsor of the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act — originally introduced by former Rep. John Conyers (D-MI). This was heralded by Healthcare NOW and Physicians for a National Health Program in early March. However, Congressman Ellison treated Missourians to a sneak preview when he announced this news on February 9 at a Democratic gathering in Saint Charles, where he energized a diverse audience, including a large group of enthusiastic high schoolers.

Congressman Keith Ellison will be keynote at the annual Single Payer Strategy Conference, organized by the national organizations Healthcare-Now!, the Labor Campaign for Single Payer, and the One Payer States group, and co-sponsored by many other groups including National Nurses United and Progressive Democrats



Keith Ellison and Mimi Signor high five



Keith Ellison with high schoolers

of America. The national conference is being held in Minneapolis over the weekend of June 22-24. Conference workshops include topics such as: Overcoming Resistance: Talking to People about Single Payer, Building Rural and Urban Grassroots Power to Win Healthcare for All, Long Term Care, Disability Rights and the Single Payer Movement, Online Organizing, and All About Grassroots Lobbying.

Congressman Ellison has represented Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives since 2007. His policy agenda is based on four key priorities—peace, prosperity for working families, environmental sustainability, and support for civil and human rights. He is currently serving his fifth term.

Congressman Ellison is one of Congress' foremost progressive leaders. He was the Co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus from 2011 to 2017. He has consistently fought for job creation, progressive tax rates, health care for all, workers' rights, a clean environment, quality education, fair trade, strong consumer protections, protecting the right to vote, equality and justice for all, and greater investment in infrastructure. He is committed to strengthening our neighborhoods through community organization and advocacy.



Keith Ellison with Nadida Matin

During his service in the Minnesota state legislature, Ellison was a strong advocate to protect Minnesota children from dangerous pesticides and chemicals, promoted legislation to restore the voting rights of ex-offenders, and successfully advocated for an increase to the state's minimum wage. Ellison won a first ballot Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party endorsement in 2006. Keith was challenged in the DFL primary by six candidates. He won the general election with 56% of the vote in a four-way race. Since Keith's first election, his campaign has engaged current voters, while working to expand the number of voters. Congressman Ellison is the Vice-Chair and Labor Liaison of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, a Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Conference, and the Deputy Chair of the Democratic National Committee.

---Mimi Signor, RN

We Need Healthcare, not Insurance

The fight for healthcare is not new. Americans have been fighting industry and crony capitalism for quality healthcare for decades. Our first achievements were historical—we stopped child labor in conditions that would haunt their health for the rest of their lives, we ensured a weekend to allow American families to rest and recuperate, we ensured that many companies offered healthcare benefits to entice the best workers. Unions led those fights for American rights. In areas with strong unions, health outcomes were better, pay was better for all, and more Americans were satisfied with their jobs.

With the recent decline of unions, so too has our ability to fight for our healthcare in the same way. Decades of incremental erosion of healthcare benefits, escalating costs, political efforts to undermine unions, and the thousands of strikes over just keeping the health plans workers have fought to win has taken a huge toll on the quality of those plans and on the unions themselves. Crony capitalism is winning, and our access to quality, affordable healthcare is receding.

In my article [*A Labor-Based Movement for Medicare for All*](#), I argue that we are losing this battle but we do not have to lose the war. However, to do so, we must change how we fight.

Every American wants for them and their families to be healthy, but why do we automatically assume that insurance is a part of that equation? We should not be fighting for access to insurance, we should be fighting for our access to healthcare. We should not put our health and our lives in the hands of insurance companies.

Medicare has worked well in this country to provide healthcare to our aging citizens. We have the opportunity and the ability to expand this program, get rid of the corporate middle-man, and to create a system that allows all Americans access to quality healthcare. A Medicare for All system is our new tactic in this battle for American health and American justice.

We can change the game. As we have seen with the Fight for \$15 and the #MeToo movement, we have the

The Labor Campaign for Single Payer invites you to our 2018 National Strategy Conference:



PATHWAY TO VICTORY

Support for Medicare for All is higher than ever. Join us this summer to build a national campaign to move us from resistance to victory!

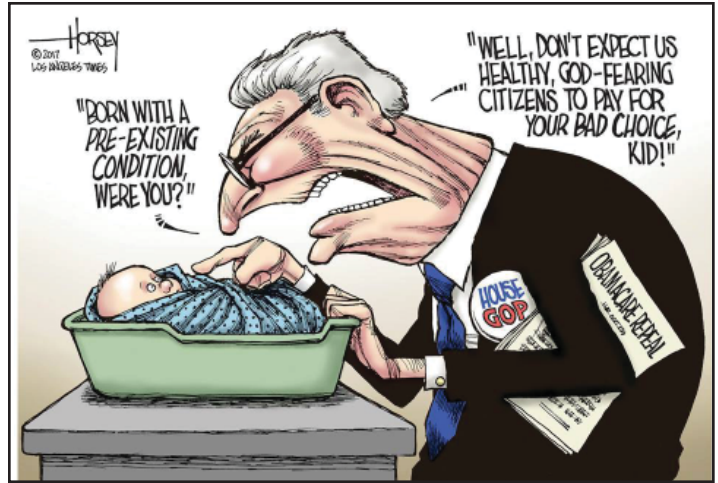
June 22-24
Minneapolis, MN

Register now at
laborforsinglepayer.org

power to overcome politically powerful economic forces by mobilizing public opinion through our work.

In demanding guaranteed healthcare through a Medicare for All system, we are demanding a more just and healthy, productive and humane society. Medicare for All not only motivates millions to organize for justice, but winning it would help win justice for all.

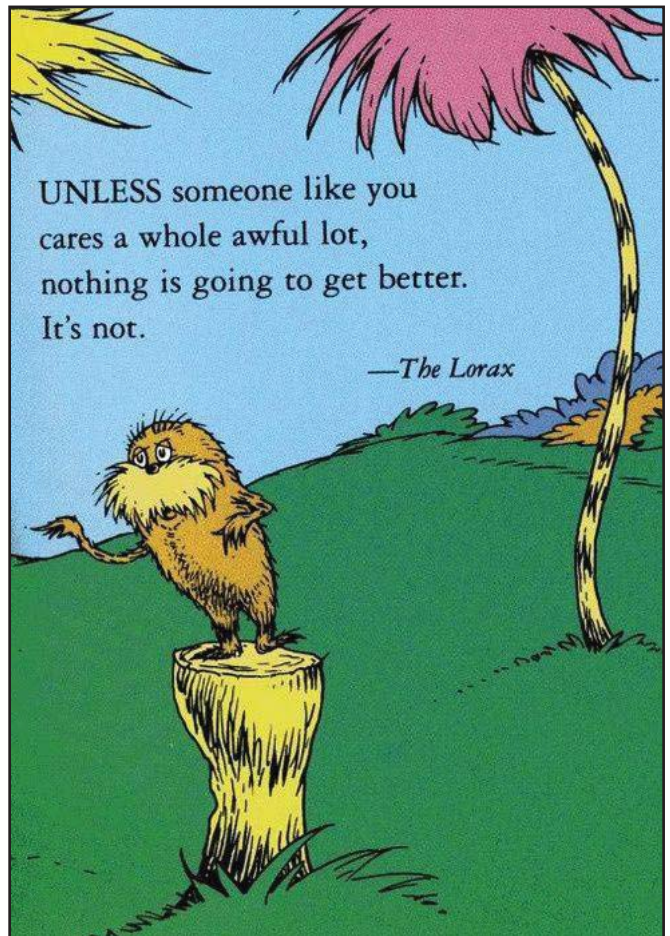
---Michael Lighty, Director of Public Policy for National Nurses United & Fellow of The Sanders Institute



Quotes

“My understanding is that (the new proposal) will allow insurance companies to require people who have higher healthcare costs to contribute more to the insurance pool. That helps offset all these costs, thereby reducing the cost to those people who lead good lives, they’re healthy; they’ve done the things to keep their bodies healthy.”

--- Alabama Congressman Mo Brooks



How to spot a *fake* health care reform proposal:

Imitation plans like *Medicare Extra* (Center for American Progress) and *Healthy America Program* (Urban Institute):

- Fail to cover all Americans.
- Require out-of-pocket spending for medically necessary care.
- Protect the profits of private insurance companies.
- Make our complex “system” more complicated.
- Restrict patients choice of doctor.



rubber duck



wooden duck



duck substitute



duck decoy



duck disguise

Don't settle for less! *Improved Medicare for all* is a **real** reform proposal that would:



actual duck

- Guarantee full coverage for all Americans.
- Eliminate copays and deductibles.
- Remove corporate middlemen from the equation.
- Streamline billing and administration.
- Allow patients to see the doctor of their choice.

#SinglePayer #MedicareForAll



Hacked!

The Saga of Missouri's Paper Ballot Bill



Cynthia Richards

The hand marked paper ballot bill, HB 2208, passed the Missouri House with an overwhelming majority but did not do well in the Senate. It was changed beyond recognition by the Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections in order to please the Secretary of State and some local election officials, including the directors of election in St. Louis County, who argued at the committee hearing that their work load would be greater if most voters marked paper ballots by hand rather than using a voting machine--thereby putting the ease of their jobs above the need to counter the threat of hacking.

The Senate committee substitute language allowed for the continued use of the direct-record electronic voting machines (DREs) by all voters until such time as the machines fall apart, while the original language stipulated that DREs could be used until they wear out but only for the purpose of accommodating voters who need assistance. (Note that there was not any language in our original bill that required voters to prove they had a disability in order to use the disabled-access machine.) The other big change made by the Senate committee was that it allowed for counties to use electronic paper ballot marking devices (BMDs) as the means by which all voters cast their votes. This was not compatible with the original intent of the bill which was--and always has been--to provide Missouri with a software free record of the vote so that reliable audits and recounts can be conducted. St. Louis County election officials and others opposing the bill argued that giving voters the opportunity to verify that a BMD has printed their ballot selections correctly before being counted provides a safeguard to detect software tampering; they are unwilling to

acknowledge that most voters won't take the time needed to carefully verify the ballot, nor do they acknowledge the real possibility that what is printed on the ballot may not be what the vote-counting software actually counts, due to possible hacking.

For summer reading on this issue, I highly recommend Jennifer Cohn's excellent, well-researched article which recently appeared in the online journal *Medium*. Here is the title/opening teaser: "Progress! States are finally replacing touchscreen voting machines—which provide no means for voters to know if their votes were recorded correctly—with new touchscreen ballot markers, which also provide no means for voters to know if their votes were recorded correctly ... Wait what?" You can find it at the following link:

<https://medium.com/@jennycohn1/progress-states-are-replacing-unverifiable-touchscreen-voting-machines-with-unverifiable-3d77c0905cfd> The article thoroughly explains the reasons why it is crucial for states to outlaw DREs and limit as much as possible the use of BMDs. Please share it widely!

Thank you to all who made phone calls and gave testimony in favor of the original language of the bill this session. Your support is so important. Please continue to spread the word! If you live in St. Louis County, Johnson County, The City of St. Louis, or Kansas City, please let the directors of election know that you want hand marked paper ballots -- not DREs or BMDs -- to be the standard voting method used.

---Cynthia Richards, Ph.D., Co-Director, Missouri's Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections





Cynthia Richards, fourth from left, at Bernie Sanders Rally

Our Revolution - St. Joseph, MO

The spirit of Martin Luther King's Poor People's Campaign of 1968 is rekindling! Yesterday, the Missouri chapter of the new Poor People's campaign made its way to St. Joseph. They're organizing around a very simple premise...that we have a moral and ethical responsibility to do everything we can to end systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction & related injustices and build a just, sustainable and participatory society.

A number of Our Revolution members were in attendance and we look forward to working with these great folks in the coming months! Be sure to "Like" their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MissouriPPC/> and visit www.ppcmo.org to find out how you can help! — with Derek Evans, Krista Kiger, Andrea Cole, Natalie Waddell Ward, Kimi Elizabeth Yokoyama, Emily Waddell Fite, Janet Snuggs Storts, Diane Waddell and Shelley White.



Poor People's Campaign in St. Joseph



Election Security

For years, experts have warned that American elections are vulnerable to attack. Hostile nations try to undermine our democracy. Congress must take these four immediate steps to secure our elections:

- 1) Audit elections to verify that ballots are counted and reported correctly;
- 2) Require paper ballots (or, at least, paper receipts for electronic ballots);
- 3) Enact national vote-by-mail;
- 4) Develop a national response to foreign attacks on our election systems

Our elections are facing threats - foreign and domestic - and it's more critical than ever that Congress act to ensure the integrity of our votes and protect our democratic values.

---Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)
coalition for election security



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Categories

_____ Individual, \$20 I will contribute \$ _____ towards _____

_____ Family, \$30 _____

(specific programming and expenses)

_____ Organization, \$50

_____ Other \$ _____

_____ I'm unable to pay dues at this time, but I will support and promote MoSP among relatives, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, however I can. Please continue to send me the newsletter. Please call on me for volunteer help.