



HR 676 (Conyers) Improved Medicare-For-All

Why not private (for profit) health insurance?

We tried it that way and it just didn't work. What we ended up with was...

- Millions uninsured and cut off from adequate care (over 46.8 million)
- Millions more underinsured and cut off from adequate care
- Unaffordable premiums, co-pays, and deductibles (over 11% this year alone for employee premium increases at UC)
- Exclusions for pre-existing conditions and other serious illnesses
- Soaring medical industry inflation three times the national average
- Thousands annually forced into bankruptcy because of medical bills
- Millions unable to afford needed medications and treatment
- Insurance companies more concerned about their profits than our health

We are the only industrialized country in the world that does not put citizens health above corporate profits. **Affordable health care in America should be a right and not a privilege.**

What crisis?

- Among Americans with colorectal cancer, those without insurance are 70% more likely to die within 3 years than those with insurance.
- Uninsured lung cancer patients are less likely to receive surgery, chemotherapy or radiation treatment.
- Heart attack patients are less likely to receive angioplasty.
- Uninsured patients receive less preventative care, are diagnosed at more advanced disease stages, and receive less therapeutic care (drugs and surgical intervention). Having insurance would reduce mortality rates for the uninsured by 105 to 15%.

Underinsured nationally

JAMA, Dec. 13, 2006 and Health Affairs, June 14, 2005

- 17.1 million people under 65 in 2003 (health insurance exceeding 10% of his or her income)
- 38% did not fill prescriptions due to costs
- 32% went without seeing a doctor when needed
- 30% avoided medical tests, treatment, or follow up care
- 18% declined care from specialists
- 46% reported being contacted by collection agencies about unpaid medical bills
- 35% reported changing their lifestyles to cover medical expenses
- 929 poor counties (more than half of poor counties) lacked a health center (National Association of Community Health and George Washington University)

What we ask?

Pledge to cosponsor HR 676 in 2009

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