

To Chair Monnes-Anderson and Committee Members:

I strongly favor a single payer health care system for several reasons:

1. Social: It's the only way to assure a decent quality of life for all people.
2. Financial and social: In our current system, those without health care put off routine medical care (because they can't afford it) until they wind up in the emergency room, which is the most expensive and least effective approach.
3. Financial: Our country spends more than twice as much of our GDP on health care than the average of developed countries, and gets markedly poorer results. This alone should encourage fiscal conservatives to back a single-payer system.
  - a. Age-adjusted mortality per 100,000 population in 2015 was 837 in the US, while comparable countries averaged 727.9. From <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/quality-u-s-healthcare-system-compare-countries/#item-overall-mortality-rate-1980-2015>, by Bradley Sawyer and Daniel McDermott, *Kaiser Family Foundation*, posted March 28, 2019
  - b. In 2017, we spent about 18% of GDP on health expenditures, more than twice the average among developed countries. Source: <https://www.crfb.org/papers/american-health-care-health-spending-and-federal-budget>, by Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.
  - c. We spend twice what other high-income nations spend on health care, but have the lowest life expectancy and highest infant mortality rates. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-spending/u-s-health-spending-twice-other-countries-with-worse-results-idUSKCN1GP2YN>. By Lisa Rapaport, Reuters.
4. Financial – international competitiveness: Removing employee health care burden from employers will reduce their cost of goods and services, thus increasing their competitiveness internationally.
5. Social: High health care costs discourage employers from hiring more people, especially at lower pay rates. Instead, they are forced to use overtime. Once we're on a single payer system, employers will be able to add employees without incurring high health care costs.
6. Efficiency and effectiveness: I have talked with many health care professionals, including billing clerks. The proliferation of plans, with all their attendant idiosyncrasies, makes billing and reimbursement a major headache, and does nothing to help a patient get well.

For the record, I'm a self-employed consultant.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Gary Langenwalter