

Task Force on Universal Health Care:

Most Public Sector Unions and many Private sector unions are interested in and desire a publicly provided universal health care system. It would take the cost of health insurance off the table. For many there is a concern about what will happen to the savings that the employer reaps. Will it be totally open to bargaining, or will the new program require some sharing? But the need to have publicly provided health care is essential.

However, Multi-Employer unions come under the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows Labor-Management Committees to establish benefit funds for covering retirement and health care for union members.

Many union members in the building trades and other occupations only work for part of the year and sometimes are on the road depending on their contractor employers. Yet, they continue to receive health insurance benefits during times of layoff. This is a commendable benefit and more reason to join a union that has won this human need. They have many concerns about losing these benefits if singlepayer is adopted by a region or state. Also, losing the buying power if members no longer need the union provided insurance. And of course they wonder if the Singlepayer benefit will be as good as what they have now.

I have been a Public Employee Union Representative for over 30 years. A few years ago I became familiar with The "Labor Campaign for Singlepayer" and its director Mark Dudzic. They did an analysis and suggestions addressing many of the concerns that Multi-Employer Unions have. I have attached their work. The last page of ten suggestions to consider is especially important. But the whole work is very informing and allows a better understanding.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

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