

June 23, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC & U.S.MAIL

EXAMPLE – LETTER SENT TO Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell

Senator Maria Cantwell
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3206
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Your continued leadership in standing up for quality, affordable healthcare access for all is critical in this moment when care for 23 million is appreciated. We thank you for your advocacy on behalf of Washington's patients and thank you for doing everything in your power to stop the secret Senate Republican healthcare bill yet to be released for consideration by the full Senate and the public.

We are standing with you and will continue to oppose the Republican healthcare bill that will:

- Make health coverage unaffordable for Washingtonians – raising premiums and out-of-pocket costs while raising taxes for many working families
- Threaten Medicaid expansion
- Cap or cut Medicaid funding for states that shifts costs and risk to the state budgets
- Reduce coverage for millions of Americans who currently get health care through the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Threaten Medicare's comprehensive coverage and its financial viability which has been strengthened by the ACA
- Fail to uphold basic consumer protections. Insurance companies should not be allowed to define pre-existing conditions or refuse to cover people with pre-existing conditions
- Fail to protect the health care services of all Washingtonians including the services provided to women and their families by Planned Parenthood

We thank you for raising your voice in objection to the process. Providing adequate, affordable health care coverage is a complicated policy challenge. It is irresponsible and undemocratic to rush a bill through the legislative process without enough time for senators and the public to read it or without time for the CBO to analyze a bill that will impact millions of Americans and 1/6th of the US economy.

We urge all of Washington's Congressional delegation to vote against any attack on our health care. If these attacks on healthcare become law, those voting for it will be responsible for sending many Washington families, individuals and seniors into debt or financial ruin. As you know, a vote to repeal and replace ACA will result in higher costs, low-quality care, and less coverage – all the while giving a massive tax break to the wealthy and health care corporations.

There is a better way forward for our nation: an idea the American people are beginning to favor. There is forthcoming legislation that ensures all Americans have healthcare as a basic right and lowers the cost of care for everyone. This soon-to-be-introduced Medicare for All legislation will address the key shortcomings in our current system:

- Reducing administrative costs to save about \$350 billion or 15% on our health care costs.¹
- Eliminating all private health insurance premiums, co-pays, and deductibles paid by employers and individuals.
- Preserving patients' choices of doctors and facilities and would maintain the availability of care. 93% of providers currently accept Medicare, statistically equal to the 94% who accept private insurance.²
- Reducing the incidence of unnecessary procedures which cost our system more than \$200 billion.³
- Ending the cycle of 26,000 adults dying annually from lack of access to preventative care.⁴
- Covering the 5.8% of Washingtonians who remain uninsured, even under the ACA, and providing relief to the more than 1 in 10 Washingtonians report having delayed needed care due to the cost.⁵

Washingtonians are ready for an alternative that provides better care for less money. It is time to take a serious look at Medicare for All.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONAL Sign On Letter: Please email Kelly Power by June 23– kellystp@gmail.com

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4283267/>

² <http://kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/primary-care-physicians-accepting-medicare-a-snapshot/>

³ <http://khn.org/news/putting-a-lid-on-waste-needless-medical-tests-not-only-cost-200b-they-can-do-harm/>

⁴ <http://familiesusa.org/product/dying-coverage-deadly-consequences-being-uninsured>

⁵ http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/healthcoverage/pdf/congressional_districts_uninsured_rates_chart_book.pdf