



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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PAUL SHEARON
President

MATTHEW S. BIGGS
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

January 30, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 90,000 workers represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing to urge you to support and cosponsor the Medicare for All Act of 2019, that will be introduced this session by Washington Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. IFPTE endorses this legislation which, if enacted, will guarantee that every American has quality comprehensive health care.

Currently, some 28.5 million Americans are uninsured, and another 41 million Americans are underinsured, with 56% of the latter receiving health insurance coverage through their employer. And while the U.S. spends more per person on our current multi-payer health care system than any other nation, international health benchmarks consistently show the quality of the U.S. health care system lags behind wealthy industrial nations. The costs of the current system – in terms of economics and in Americans' lives – are unsustainable.

Medicare for All Act of 2019 guarantees health care to all Americans by improving the current Medicare by adding coverage for comprehensive health services, including dental, vision, prescription drugs, women's reproductive health services, and long-term care services. It would require no out-of-pocket costs, gives all patients the freedom to choose the doctors, hospitals, and health services providers they wish to see. This bill would ensure fair drug pricing by allowing the Medicare for All system to negotiate drug prices. Provisions in the bill would preserve the ability of veterans to receive health care through the VA and address the growing health care crisis in rural and urban communities, where a shrinking number of hospitals and clinics are struggling to meet the health care needs of the people who live in these communities.

The total national health expenditure in a single-payer system would be less than in the current multi-payer system, which was measured at 17.9% of GDP in 2017. By raising the quality of care across all communities in the U.S., this bill would increase productivity and help America's competitiveness in the global economy. IFPTE urges you to cosponsor the Medicare for All Act of 2019.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us or IFPTE legislative representative Faraz Khan at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon,
President

Matthew Biggs,
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director

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