



International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

Support Single Payer Healthcare -- The Medicare for All Act

Position: The Machinists Union urges all members of Congress to support commonsense, single-payer healthcare legislation by cosponsoring Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Pramila Jayapal's Medicare for All Act, S. 1129 and H.R. 1384.

While the Affordable Care Act was an enormous achievement for all Americans, many Americans remain uninsured even after its implementation, and there is still much work to do controlling healthcare costs. **For decades the IAM has and continues to believe that a single-payer, universal healthcare system is the only way we can truly reshape our broken healthcare system. Until we guarantee healthcare to all, our work is not complete.**

The Medicare for All Act establishes a unique American universal health insurance program with single-payer financing. The bill would create a publicly financed, privately delivered health care system that improves and expands the already existing Medicare program to all U.S. residents. The bill eliminates health insurance premiums, high deductibles, and co-pays. It would also end the competitive disadvantage that our employers face versus companies in countries with a national health care system.

Under a single-payer health care system, one publicly administered pool pays for all medical bills. The legislation would provide for real costs controls through negotiated fee schedules, bulk purchasing, and the elimination of insurance company profits and administrative waste—which consumes 1/3 of every healthcare dollar.

The exorbitant cost of healthcare in the United States creates major challenges for our Machinists Union members at the collective bargaining table. At nearly every negotiation we enter, companies inform our members that the burden of rising healthcare costs are eating up a larger and larger portion of our total compensation. These companies claim that they can no longer afford to make substantial improvements in wages, retirement, and other benefits due to the magnitude of healthcare cost increases. Instead they are shifting these rising healthcare costs on to our members in the form of higher employee share of premiums, deductibles, and other out of pocket costs; putting countless families just one medical emergency away from serious financial hardship. The Medicare for All Act would end these issues by taking healthcare off the bargaining table.

A single-payer system, as in enhanced and expanded Medicare for All, is the only affordable way to assure guaranteed health care for all Americans.

We urge you to support smart, comprehensive, and humane healthcare policy by signing on as a co-sponsor to the Medicare for All Act of 2019.