



As an organization of small business owners, entrepreneurs, associations and organizations representing 150,000 members, we have grave concerns about the “Medicare for All” concept.

This week, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) is introducing his “Medicare for All” plan, a concept that has been endorsed by four Senate Democrats running for President and over 100 House Democrats. Sanders told CBS News that his plan would “get rid of insurance companies.” Specifically, he warned those who currently have employer-based insurance “you’re going to have to change that” because “all people will be covered by Medicare.”

Sanders’ promise comes on the heels of Sen. Kamala Harris’ (D-CA) controversial remark in January that her “Medicare for All” plan would “eliminate” all private health insurance. Less than 24 hours later, Harris walked back her position and maintained that private insurance could still exist under her plan. But as Michael Kinsley famously observed, “A gaffe is when a politician tells the truth – some obvious truth he isn’t supposed to say.” In this case, Harris had it right the first time – enacting “Medicare for All” would mean eliminating private health insurance. This is the source of our concern.

According to a 2015 report from the National Small Business Association, 65 percent of small businesses offer health insurance to their employees. This means that abolishing private health insurance would eliminate healthcare choices for up to 38 million Americans employed by small businesses.

President Obama famously promised that “if you like your healthcare plan, you can keep it,” only to break his pledge when 4 million Americans lost their plan because of the Affordable Care Act. “Medicare for All” would be a disaster for small business, forcing many millions into a system similar to those that have failed miserably in other countries – where people wait for months for badly-needed procedures risking further decline of health or death, where access to care is limited and literally rationed. “Medicare for All” would be devastating to job creators and their employees. It is a prescription for higher costs, less choice, and lower wages. It will blunt job creation, delivering a damaging body blow to our growing economy.

Members of Congress must take a stand now. Small businesses are the backbone of the growing economy, creating two out of three new jobs in America.

We urge you to publicly reject “Medicare for All” and support the continued existence of a private health insurance market by opening up more choice and competition in healthcare instead of going in a radical direction that has proven to be failure many times over.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Ortiz
President and CEO
Job Creators Network