



As an organization of small business owners, entrepreneurs, associations and organizations representing over 200,000 members, we have grave concerns about the “single-payer” healthcare concept.

This Wednesday, the House Budget Committee, which you sit on, is holding a hearing on “establishing a single-payer healthcare system.” Over 100 House Democrats are cosponsors of the most popular “single-payer” bill before Congress, the *Medicare for All Act of 2019*.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has introduced his own “single-payer” bill, 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.” The implications of Sanders’s statement are undeniable: “Single-payer” means the complete abolishment of all private health insurance. That will be devastating for America’s small business owners and their employees.

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. Over 200 million Americans, in total, will be impacted.

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. “Single-payer” would be a disaster for small business, forcing many millions into a system similar to those that have failed miserably in other countries – where access to care is limited and literally rationed.

Under Canada’s single-payer system, nearly one million Canadians are stuck on healthcare wait lists. More than 60,000 Canadian patients flee each year to escape their wait line, mostly going to the U.S.

Under the United Kingdom’s single-payer system, wait lists have ballooned to 4.1 million people, with the average person waiting 18 weeks for necessary treatment. Applying that number to the U.S. would be the equivalent of having 20 million Americans on wait lists.

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 “single-payer” 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