



June 10, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

As an organization representing the 90 million Americans who work at or own a small business, we have grave concerns about the increasing likelihood of a government takeover of America's healthcare system.

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee is holding a hearing on "pathways to universal health coverage," which is a pleasant way of saying "a government takeover of everyone's health insurance." The most popular bill to achieve that, the *Medicare for All Act of 2019*, has over 110 House cosponsors, almost half the Democratic Caucus.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has introduced his own "universal healthcare" 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: "Universal healthcare" 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 four million Americans lost their plan because of the Affordable Care Act. "Universal healthcare" would impact a vastly greater number of Americans, forcing them into a system that has failed miserably around the world – one where access to care is limited and literally rationed.

Under Canada's "universal" 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 "universal" 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 “universal healthcare” whether it takes the name of “single-payer,” “Medicare for All,” or any other Orwellian name.

Instead, we urge you to pass market-based healthcare reforms to reduce burdensome regulations that are artificially reducing healthcare supply and inflating prices. For instance, passing expanded association health plan (AHP) legislation, similar to the AHP rule issued last year by the Labor Department, would allow our small business owners and employees to access better health insurance for less cost. Any healthcare reforms should promote choice, lower costs, and empower patients, not the government.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Ortiz
President and CEO
Job Creators Network