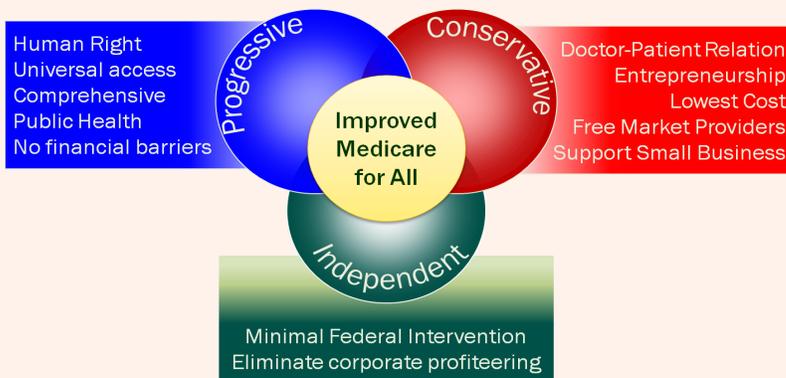




SPAN Ohio

The Conservative Case for Single Payer Health Care

Single Payer Has Universal Appeal



Adapted from Nathan Wilkes

What is Single Payer?

The term "**Single-payer**" means that one fund, administered by a non-profit government agency accountable to the public, would make payment for all medical services.

We propose a system that would cover everyone, accessible to all, comprehensive, accountable to those it serves, allows free choice of doctors and hospitals and promotes prevention and early intervention for the general welfare of the citizens.

This system would build on traditional Medicare, improving the benefits and expanding it to all.

Everyone would contribute to the cost of their own health care benefits, rather than the patchwork system we now have.

Why Conservatives Should Support Single Payer

- Single Payer is not government control of health care and a single payer system would result in less government control than we currently have in the Affordable Care Act.
- It saves money. Every other advanced democracy covers virtually all of its people at a cost relative to national income of something like 60% of what the United States pays. That's just wasted money—money that could buy other things. Estimates show that a national program would save about a half trillion dollars in its first year.* In Ohio, a state based plan would save public employers \$2-3 billion each year.**

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- It acts as an economic stimulus. By reducing the cost of healthcare to consumers, they have more discretionary income to spend on goods and services from other sectors of the economy, thus creating the need for more jobs to produce those good and services.***
- In addition to creating jobs, mainly in the manufacturing and retail sectors, it would create additional tax revenue to carry on existing programs and decrease the deficit. ***
- It supports entrepreneurship by removing the burden of increasingly expensive employee benefit programs and frees up business resources to concentrate on providing a quality product or service.
- Controls costs by **encouraging competition** and allowing a free exchange between the consumer (ie. patients) and the service providers (ie. doctors and hospitals) with universal access and availability especially at the mostly small business primary care level.
- Frees up resources currently duplicated on **redundant systems** like Worker's Compensation or medical liability written into auto, home, and business insurances.
- It provides support to the middle class in a time of anxiety. Globalization has thus far tended to enrich the rich and squeeze the middle, not only in the United States, but in almost every developed country. Health security puts a floor under the middle class without radical change to the rest of the economic system.
- It enhances national unity. The existing health system disproportionately leaves ethnic minorities exposed to risks of premature death, disability, and illness. Universal health coverage makes all feel in this one respect at least equally part of society and nation.
- **Reduces medical malpractice and "defensive medicine"** by removing the incentive of consumers to sue the providers in an attempt to recover personal losses in the form of medical bills.
- Allows and encourages consumers to **assume personal responsibility for their own health**, with completely open access to preventive and primary services including medical screening, health education, mental health and long term care services, dental and vision, and more.
- Restores the doctor/patient relationship by putting medical decisions in their hands rather than in the hands of insurance companies which seek to deny or limit healthcare.
- Allows business to conduct business without the ever increasing burden of managing employee benefit programs. It also puts American businesses on a level playing field in a global economy.

* Friedman, Gerald, PHD, July 31, 2013; Funding HR 676, the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act: How we can afford a national single payer health plan

** Analysis done from school reports and reports from county auditors on health care costs by SPAN Ohio.

***Single Payer/Medicare for All An Economic Stimulus Plan for the Nation, Institute for Health and Socio-Economic Policy, 2009

Join us!

Single Payer Action Network

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