# SINGLE PAYER MYTH BUSTER

THE MYTH

*"People should be able to jump the queue if they can afford it."*

THE FACT

**When the wealthy can pay to cut the line, everyone else waits longer and gets worse care.** Under National Improved Medicare for All (bill H.R. 3069 in the United States House of Representatives), everyone gets all medically needed care from one public program. People can still pay on their own for private care if they choose. But insurance companies cannot sell plans for care the public program already covers. That keeps one strong system for all of us.

## HOW H.R. 3069 HANDLES IT

*One system for everyone. Here is how it works.*

1. **One public program covers everyone.** Every person living in the United States gets all the care that is medically needed.
2. **You can still pay on your own.** People may pay out of pocket for private, "concierge," or other private care if they choose.
3. **No copycat insurance.** Insurance companies cannot sell plans that pay for the same care the public program already provides.
4. **Everyone has a stake.** When rich and poor rely on the same system, people with power use it to keep that system well funded.

## WHY JUMPING THE QUEUE HURTS US ALL

- ✓ **Longer waits for everyone else.** There are only so many doctors, nurses, and hospital beds. When the wealthy cut ahead, others wait longer.
- ✓ **Programs for the poor become poor programs.** When only people with less money use a program, it is easy to ignore.
- ✓ **Just look at Medicaid.** Because it doesn't serve the wealthy, it pays doctors little, and many doctors refuse to see Medicaid patients. Calls to fix it go unheard because its patients are not seen as politically important.
- ✓ **A permanent lobby for cuts.** A separate private system for the wealthy creates powerful groups that push to underfund public care.
- ✓ **A cycle that feeds itself.** Underfunded public care pushes more people toward private care, which widens the gap even more.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Healthcare should depend on need, not wealth. When everyone is in the same system, everyone has a reason to make it strong. National Improved Medicare for All gives every person the same high-quality care. No one cuts the line.

CONTACT US

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Questions, comments, or ready to get involved: email us.