SINGLE PAYER MYTH BUSTER

THE MYTH

“National Improved Medicare for All will increase costs rather than reduce costs.”

THE FACT

The new costs will be covered by savings. We have heard this warning before, and it was wrong. In 1965, when Medicare began, the Wall Street Journal ran a headline about the possible collapse of the healthcare system. It never happened. National Improved Medicare for All (bill H.R. 3069 in the United States House of Representatives) pays for care that people skip today, and savings in other places make up for it.

WHAT HAPPENS TO COSTS?

H.R. 3069 covers care that many people go without today. Here is what that does to costs.

1. **The fear of the bill ends.** Today, people put off care because they are afraid of healthcare bills. H.R. 3069 takes that fear away.
2. **People get care sooner.** Long-term illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes are covered, so people get treated early.
3. **Costs rise at first.** Caring for people who cut back on care today will cost more money in the short run. These new costs improve coverage.
4. **Savings cover the new costs.** The savings listed on the right make up for the added spending.
5. **People are healthier for life.** People will be healthier overall throughout life. That is good for each person and for public health.

WHERE THE SAVINGS COME FROM

- ✓ **Less paperwork.** Less money is spent on paperwork and on running the system.
- ✓ **Lower drug prices.** The program negotiates prices with drug companies.
- ✓ **One fair price for care.** All doctors and hospitals are paid one national, fair Medicare rate.
- ✓ **Fewer hospital stays.** People who get care early are less likely to need a hospital stay that could have been avoided.
- ✓ **Fewer emergency room visits.** Early care also means fewer trips to the emergency room that could have been avoided.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Covering everyone costs more at first, and savings make up for it. People get care early, stay out of the hospital and the emergency room, and are healthier throughout life.

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