SINGLE PAYER MYTH BUSTER

THE MYTH

"Let's do this in small steps, that's better for everyone."

THE FACT

Small steps are detours. They lead us away from healthcare for everyone. The goal is National Improved Medicare for All: healthcare that is paid for with public money and free from profit. It is a "single payer" plan, which means the federal government is the one payer for everyone's care. That is the best way to pay for healthcare so that everyone is covered and costs stay under control.

HOW TO SPOT A DETOUR

Ask these five questions about any healthcare plan. If it doesn't check every box, it's not single payer. It's a detour.

1. **Does it save enough to cover everyone?** It must cut enough paperwork and overhead costs to pay for complete coverage for all of us.
2. **Does it sign everyone up automatically?** That includes people with no insurance, with no income tests and no monthly premiums.
3. **Does it guarantee coverage for everyone?** Coverage must be fair and equal for every person.
4. **Does it ban private insurance from selling medically needed care?** Private insurers may not cover care that is medically needed. The public plan covers all of it.
5. **Does it put patients before profit?** The plan must be built around what patients need, not around making money.

FOUR COMMON DETOURS

- ✕ **"Breaking Up Big Medicine."** These bills would separate private insurers and drug middlemen from doctors and hospitals. The wasted paperwork costs stay, and still not everyone is covered.
- ✕ **The public option.** The most popular detour. It is a Medicare-like plan people could buy, sold next to private plans. It does not save enough on paperwork or control costs enough to cover everyone.
- ✕ **Patching the ACA.** The Affordable Care Act (ACA) cannot be patched into covering us all while controlling costs. It sends all the money through private insurers. We have 16 years of proof it does not work.
- ✕ **State "single payer" plans.** States cannot afford healthcare for everyone without federal Medicare money, and that takes special permission from Congress. Efforts in one state pull focus away from a national plan.

More detours: *MediKids, bigger ACA marketplaces, state ACA tax credits to "reduce premiums," Medicare Advantage for All, and the Healthcare Act.*

THE BOTTOM LINE

Don't take the detour. Small-step plans leave the waste in place and leave people without coverage. We need everyone working together on one national plan: National Improved Medicare for All.

CONTACT US

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