SINGLE PAYER DETOURS

THE DETOUR

"Breaking Up Big Medicine."

WHY THIS IS A DETOUR

Just breaking up big healthcare companies will not get us there. "Breaking Up Big Medicine" is a set of anti-trust bills in the Senate and the House. They would split insurance companies and other middlemen, like Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and drug wholesalers, away from the doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies they own. Even if the breakup works, private insurance companies stay in charge of our healthcare, and their drive for profit stays the same.

WHY JUST BREAKING UP BIG MEDICINE WILL NOT GET US THERE

Today, one giant company can own both the insurance plan and the doctors and pharmacies it pays.

1. **Appealing, but limited.** It would stop one company from being on both sides of a deal, so insurers could no longer overpay doctors they own to get around federal profit limits.
2. **Hard and costly to enforce.** These bills would need a huge amount of government oversight and paperwork to make them work.
3. **Profit still comes first.** Companies must still make money for their shareholders, and delaying and denying care is still how they do it.
4. **Insurers still pick and choose.** They can still sign up the healthiest people and drop the sickest, who need care the most.
5. **Many people are still left out.** Nothing in the bills helps people who are uninsured or underinsured, and the bills do not add dental, vision, hearing, prescription drugs, or long-term care.

To learn how PBMs work, see our Deep Dive on the Myth "PBMs will help us control costs of drugs."

WHAT CHANGES UNDER NATIONAL IMPROVED MEDICARE FOR ALL

- ✓ **Everyone is covered.** Everyone in the U.S. gets care from birth to end of life, including dental, vision, hearing, prescription drugs, and long-term care.
- ✓ **No more denied care.** No more prior authorization. You and your doctor decide your care, not an insurance company.
- ✓ **No profit from denying care.** One public plan replaces private insurers, so no one gets rich by delaying care or dropping the sick.
- ✓ **Real savings to pay for care.** Global budgets for hospitals, lower drug prices, and far less paperwork free up the money to cover everyone.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Breaking up Big Medicine leaves for-profit private insurance in charge. It does not expand coverage to more people and does not save the money needed for healthcare for all. It is a detour to nowhere. National Improved Medicare for All (H.R. 3069) is the direct route.

CONTACT US

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